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American Civil War Marines 1861–65



Ron Field • Illustrated by Richard Hook



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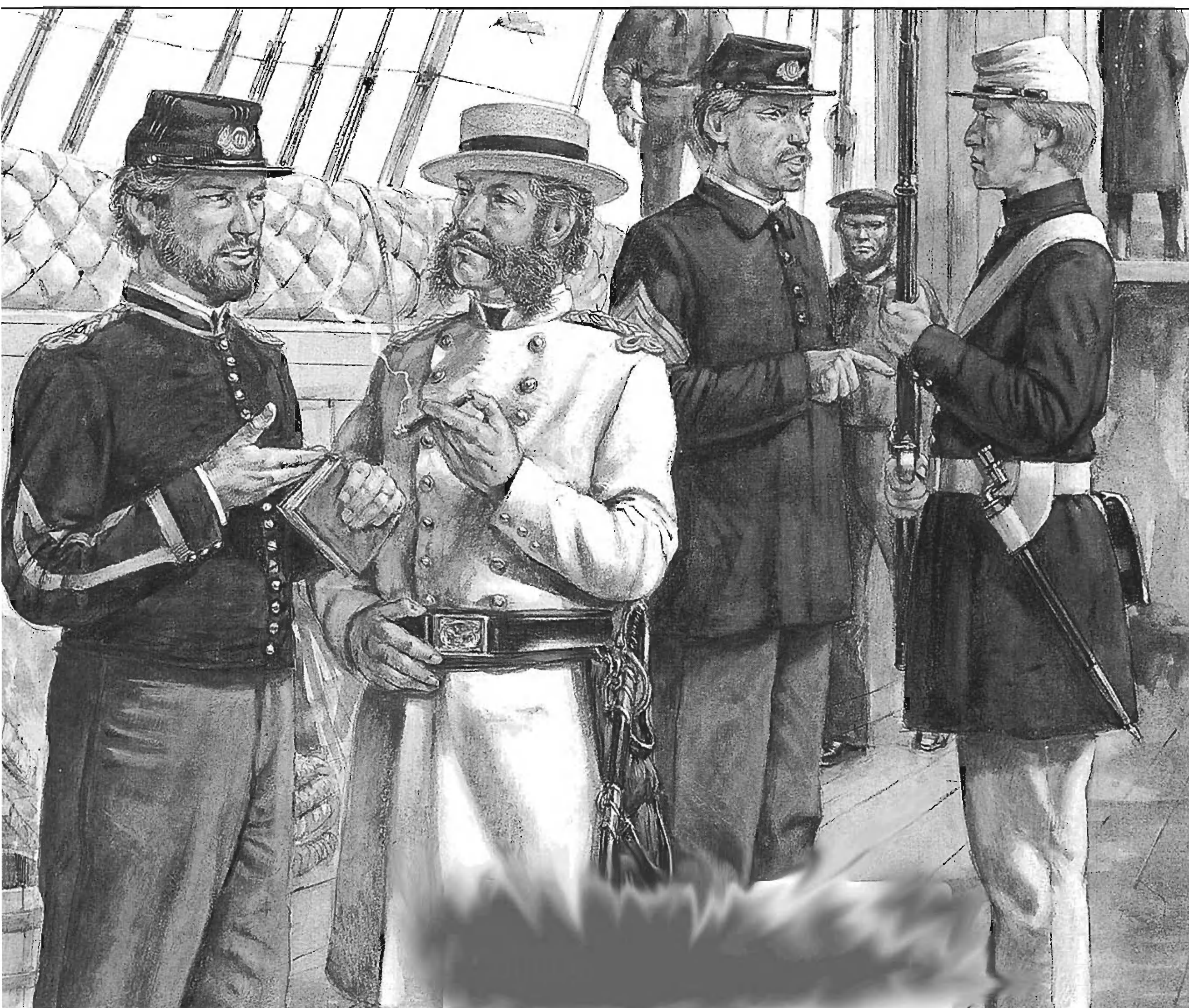
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AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MARINES

1861-65

INTRODUCTION

Col John Harris, Commandant of the US Marine Corps 1859-1864. He wears the 1859 full dress uniform for a field officer: the dark blue double-breasted frock coat, trimmed on collar and cuff flaps with gold lace loops and scarlet piping. (United States Army Military History Institute)



ON THE NIGHT OF Sunday, October 16, 1859, the abolitionist John Brown and his 22 followers seized the US Arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, in a vain attempt to incite an armed slave rebellion in the Southern States. Quickly surrounded by local militia, Brown and his men took hostages and fortified themselves in a nearby brick-built engine house. Shortly after noon the next day John Harris, Colonel-Commandant of the US Marine Corps, based at the Navy Yard in Washington, DC, received an order from Secretary of the Navy Isaac

Toucey to send "all the available Marines at Head Quarters... by this evening's train of cars to Harper's Ferry to protect the public property at that place, which is endangered by a riotous outbreak."

Within a matter of hours Lt Israel Greene and 86 Marines, plus two 12-pounder Dahlgren howitzers, were westbound on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. They disembarked about a mile short of Harper's Ferry at 10pm that night, and were joined by 150 soldiers under Col Robert E. Lee and Lt J.E.B. Stuart. The Marines were marched across the railroad bridge, and by midnight they had surrounded the engine house. Waiting until dawn the next day, Lee held a council of war with his fellow officers. Since hostages were being held it was impossible to use the howitzers. He decided to send Lt Stuart under a flag of truce at sunrise to try to persuade Brown to surrender; if this failed, Stuart was to raise his arm as a sign, and the Marines would rush the doors. Predictably, Brown refused Lee's terms, and the assault began with 24 Marines led by Lt Greene. An eyewitness and correspondent of the *Richmond Daily Dispatch* reported:

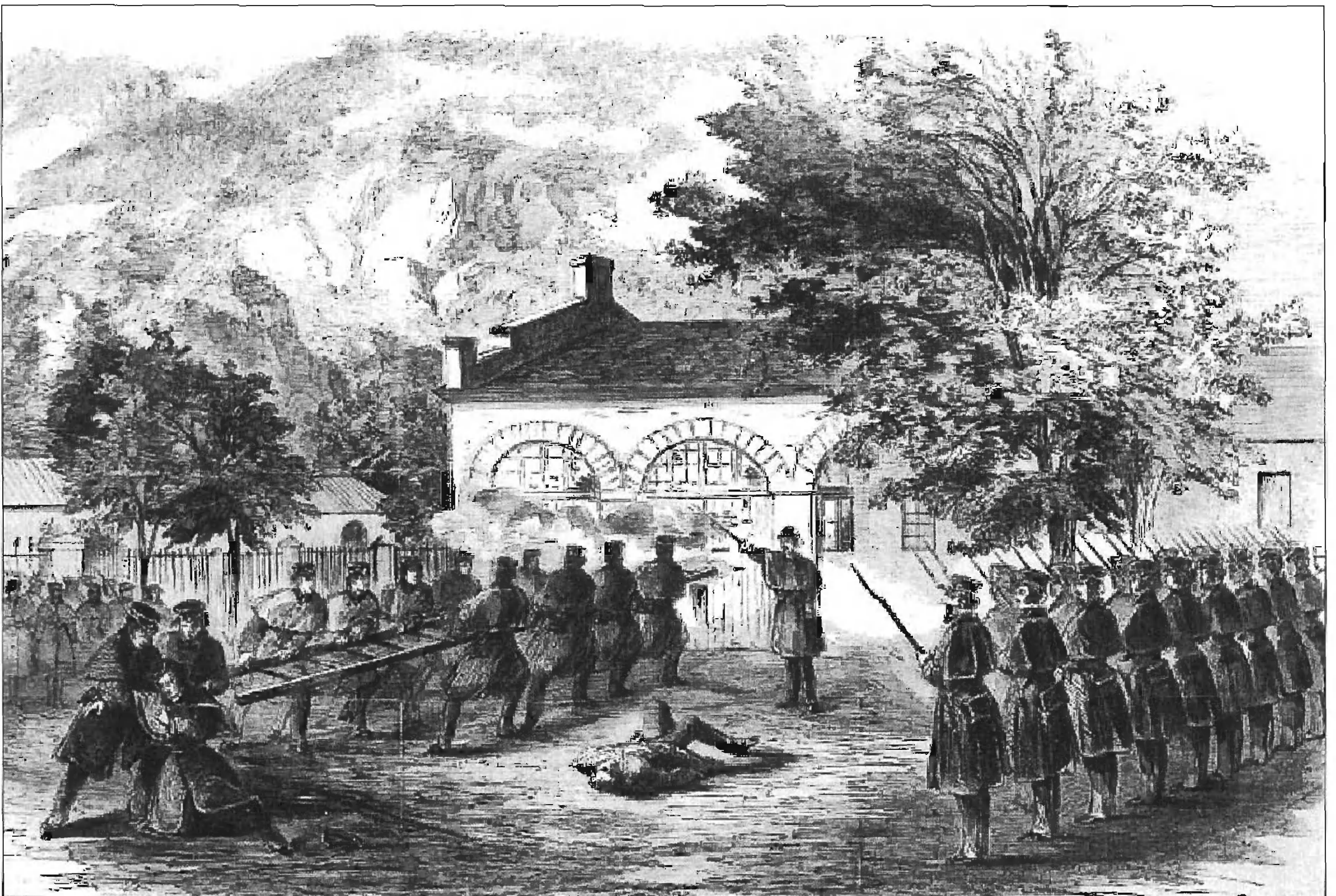
"Immediately the signal for attack was given, and the marines... advanced in two lines on each side of the door. Two powerful fellows sprang between the lines, and with heavy sledge hammers attempted to batter down the door. The door swung and swayed, but appeared to be secured with a rope, the spring of which deadened the effect of the blows. Failing thus to

obtain a breach, the marines were ordered to fall back, and twenty of them took hold of a ladder, some forty feet long, and advancing at a run, brought it with tremendous power against the door. At the second blow it gave way, one leaf falling inward in a slanting position. The marines immediately advanced to the breach, Major [William W.] Russell [the Corps Paymaster who, as a staff officer, could not command] and Lieutenant Greene leading the way. A marine in the front fell; the firing from the interior is rapid and sharp, they fire with deliberate aim, and for the moment the resistance is serious and desperate enough to excite the spectators to something like a pitch of frenzy. The next moment the marines pour in, the firing ceases, and the work was done, whilst the cheers rang from every side, the general feeling being that the marines had done their part admirably."

During the melee John Brown was wounded by a thrust from Israel Greene's dress sword, while all but two of his followers were either killed or captured. Hauled out and laid on a mattress, Brown later declared: "You may dispose of me very easily. I am very nearly disposed of now; but this question is still to be settled – this Negro question, I mean. The end is not yet."

It was the end, however, for Irishman Luke Quinn, the only Marine private killed during the assault. Another 620,000 Americans in either blue or gray uniforms would die during the Civil War fought between 1861–65 before the question of slavery and state rights would finally be settled, and the Marines of both North and South were involved throughout the conflict.

US Marines commanded by LtCol Robert E. Lee, 2nd US Cavalry, batter down the doors to the fire engine house at Harper's Ferry during the John Brown rebellion in October 1859. The Marines are wearing 1839 pattern fatigue uniforms and caps, although the new uniform regulations had been introduced in January of that year. (Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University Library)



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

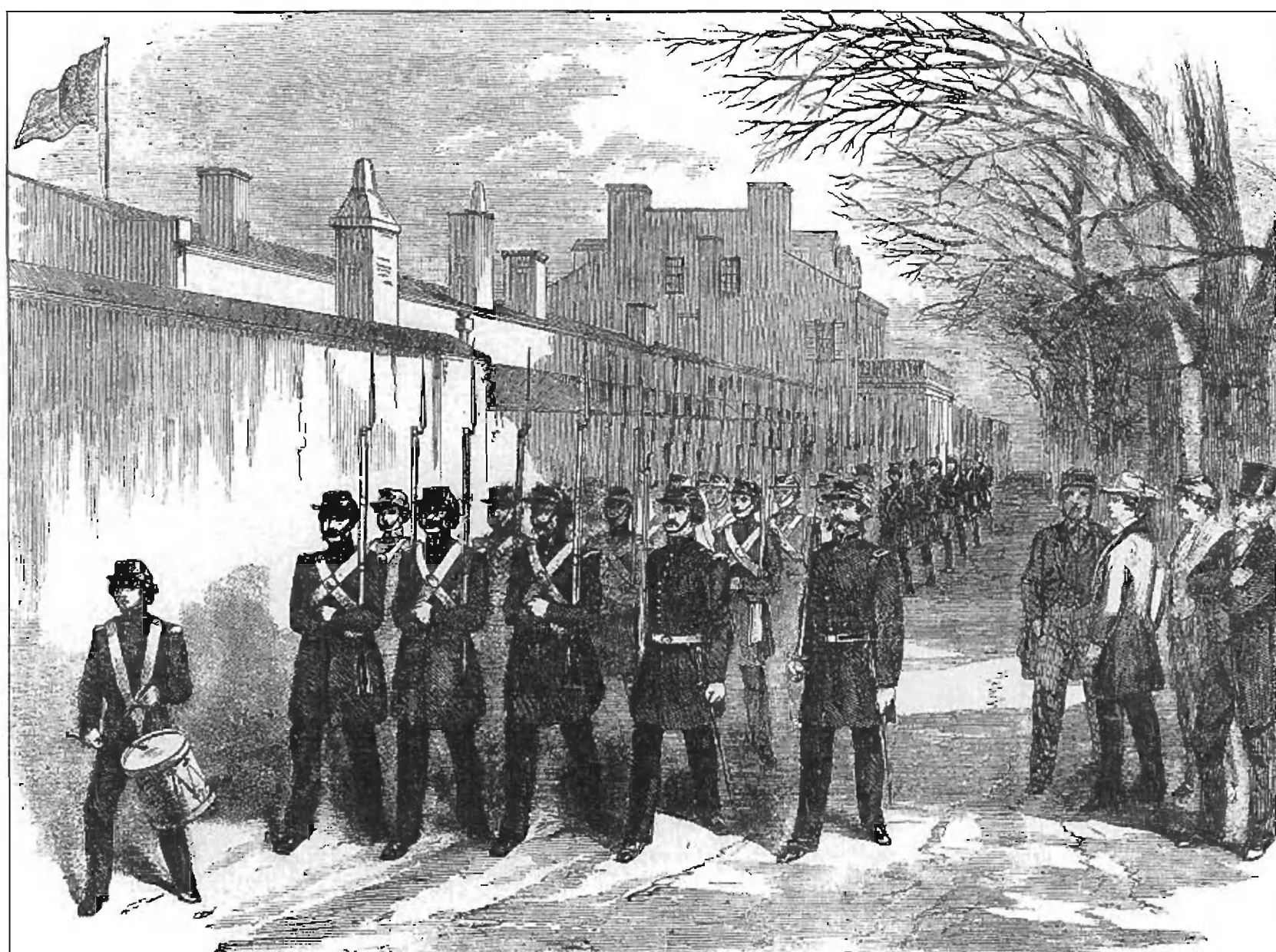
1861: The outbreak of the Civil War

Like the other military services, the small US Marine Corps was crippled by resignations as men went south to join Confederate forces at the beginning of the Civil War. Although few enlisted men quit, 20 officers out of a total of 63 either resigned or were dismissed from the service. To make up for these losses and meet the demands of wartime, on July 27, 1861, Congress authorized that the Corps be increased to 93 officers and 3,077 enlisted men, thus nearly doubling its pre-war strength of 1,758. Nonetheless, without the offer of a bounty, and with a longer term of enlistment than that for the Volunteer Army, Marine recruits were difficult to attract; by June 1862 the Corps had only 2,355 men in its ranks. As the Union Navy expanded Cdt Harris continued to ask Congress for more men, and in 1863 he was granted a "paper" establishment of 3,600, but in fact actual strength remained at about 3,000. By the war's end it peaked at 3,882 officers and men. A total of 102 US Marines died in combat, while a further 233 died of accidents or disease.

The Marines were among the few Regular troops available to the Federal government in 1861. On January 5, Secretary of the Navy Toucey ordered that Fort Washington, on the Maryland side of the Potomac River just south of Washington, be garrisoned "to protect public property." Forty Marines from the Washington Navy Yard, fully equipped for 15 days' service, under the command of Capt Algernon S. Taylor, were sent to the fort, a vital link in the defense of the capital by either land or water. Four days later another 30 Marines from the Navy Yard, commanded by 1st Lt Andrew Hayes, garrisoned Fort McHenry in Baltimore until the Army could relieve them.

In Florida, Capt Josiah Watson, commanding the Marine detachment at the Pensacola Navy Yard, surrendered on orders; but Marine ships' guards helped reinforce nearby Fort Pickens, which was still in Federal

Published in *Harper's Weekly* on September 14, 1861, this engraving depicts a detachment of Marines marching by the Washington Navy Barracks. They wear the pattern 1859 undress uniform complete with fatigue caps. (Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University Library)





Capt Jacob Zeilen was wounded while serving with the Marine Battalion at the battle of First Bull Run in July 1861, but recovered to take part in the siege of Charleston in 1863. After the death of Col Harris on May 12, 1864, Zeilen was appointed Commandant of the US Marine Corps, and served in this capacity until 1876. (Courtesy David M.Sullivan)

hands three months later. On April 20, 150 Marines were detailed to the Navy Yard at Norfolk, Virginia, where they took part in the destruction of eight vessels, plus stores, buildings, equipment, and ordnance to prevent them falling into Confederate hands.

Bull Run (First Manassas)

The first significant action by the Marine Corps took place during the battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861. When MajGen Irwin McDowell's hastily prepared 35,000-man Federal army marched south to attack Confederate forces gathered around Manassas Junction in northern Virginia on July 16, Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles volunteered the Marine battalion at the Washington Navy Barracks for service during the campaign. The unit was a product of the "call to arms" and the expansion of the Corps, and only the commander, Maj John G.Reynolds, Capt Jacob Zeilen and three other officers were experienced through "length of service." Of the enlisted men, only nine non-commissioned officers and two musicians were veterans; the remaining 336 enlisted men were raw recruits, some of whom had only just been issued weapons.

Attached to Col Andrew Porter's 1st Brigade of the 2nd Division, the Marines were assigned to follow Capt Charles Griffin's Battery D, 5th US Artillery, an all-mounted regular Army unit. After jogging and stumbling along in "double quick time" behind Griffin's guns for several hours on July 21, the Marines were exhausted before the battle commenced. Porter's brigade was part of the Federal right wing deployed to cross Bull Run at Sudley Springs, in order to deliver a flank attack on Confederate positions northwest of Manassas. As such, it was not heavily involved in the early fighting. The Marines had difficulty keeping sight of Griffin's battery as it advanced into action, but eventually found the guns on Matthews Hill north of the Warrenton turnpike, from which point they were shelling the Confederate lines to the south.

Formed up behind the guns, the Marines were exposed to "a galling fire" from Confederate artillery, but held their ground. In his after-battle report Col Porter stated that although the Marines were recruits, "through the constant exertions of their officers [they] had been brought to a fine military appearance." When the enemy fell back across the turnpike to a new position beyond Henry House hill, McDowell mistakenly believed he had won the day and ordered forward Griffin's battery and that of Capt James B.Ricketts (Bty I, 1st US Artillery) to the top of that hill. The Marine battalion, plus the 11th New York ("The Fire Zouaves"), were also ordered forward in support. Advancing after the guns, the Marines sustained their first casualties. Again re-forming behind the combined batteries, they found themselves exchanging volleys at close range with the blue-clad 33rd

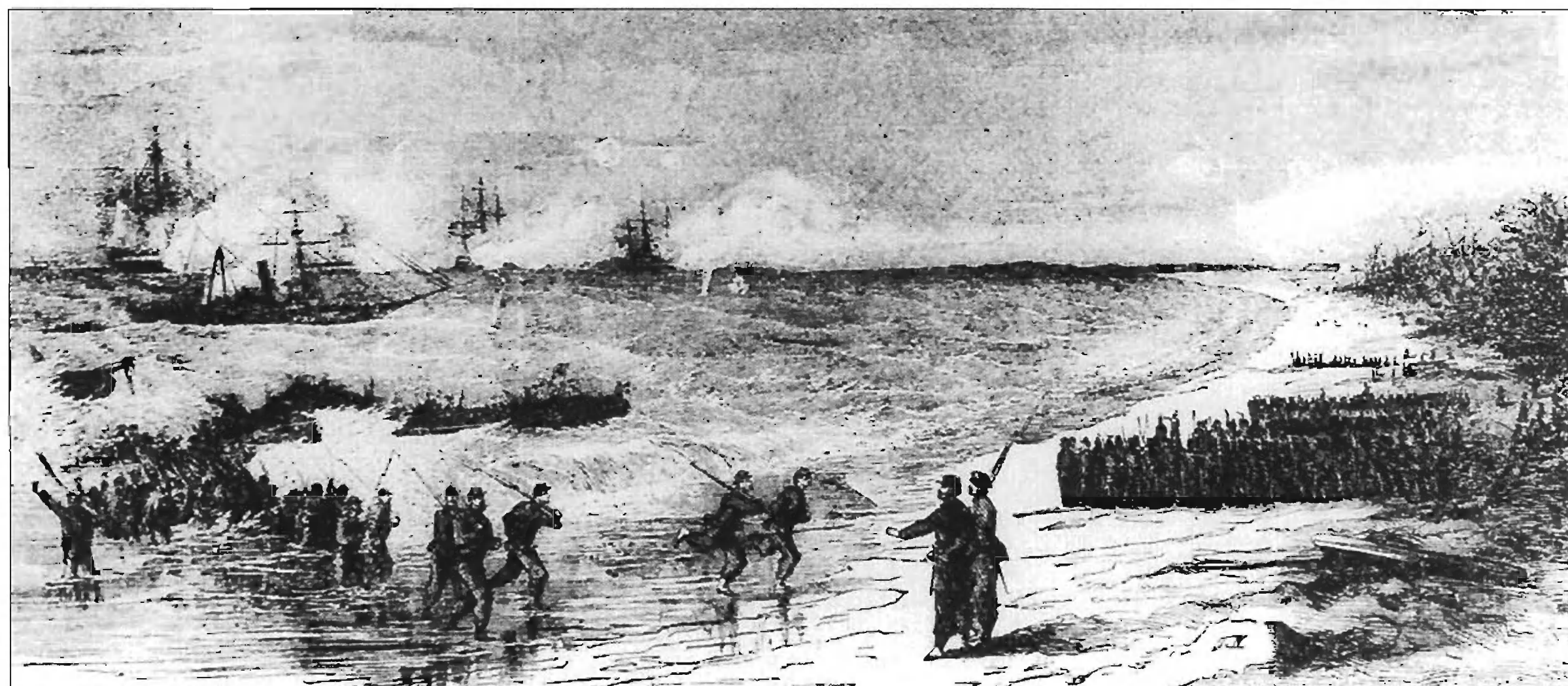
Virginia, a Confederate regiment mistaken by Federal officers for friendly infantry. Subjected to prolonged musketry and artillery fire, the ranks of the Marines were thrice broken that hot July afternoon, only to be rallied and re-formed by their veteran officers and NCOs. When a sustained Confederate infantry attack finally silenced the two batteries, a general Federal rout ensued; the Marines bravely formed the first rearguard, holding position near the Stone House until relieved by the 71st New York State Militia.

The Marine battalion left eight killed, four wounded, and 16 missing on the field of Manassas; 12 more wounded were hospitalized upon return to the capital. Among the seriously wounded was Capt Zeilen, while 2nd Lt Robert E. Hitchcock was the first Marine officer to be killed in the Civil War. During the chaos following the Federal rout most of the Marine unit retained its formation, although some of the raw recruits panicked and joined the general stampede back to Washington. The next day Reynolds reclaimed about 70 of these men from the hands of the provost guard at the Long Bridge over the Potomac River, before the remains of his battered little battalion marched back to barracks in the Navy Yard.

Hatteras Inlet

The first amphibious landing by Marines in the Civil War occurred on August 28, 1861, when Flag Officer Silas H. Stringham sent a combined battalion of soldiers and Marines ashore in surfboats to capture Forts Hatteras and Clark in Hatteras Inlet, North Carolina. The action began at 6am when Marines from the screw frigate *Minnesota*, led by Capt William L. Shuttleworth, arrived aboard the steamship *Monticello*, to be joined shortly afterwards by the Marines from the frigate *Wabash*. At 11.45am this combined force transferred into the shallow-draught steamer *Fanny*, which took them closer to the shore. Climbing down into landing craft, they were rowed to the beach; due to strong winds and a heavy surf, only 54 Marines plus several officers got ashore. According to a correspondent of the *New York Illustrated News* accompanying the expedition, every one of the landing boats was either "broken up or

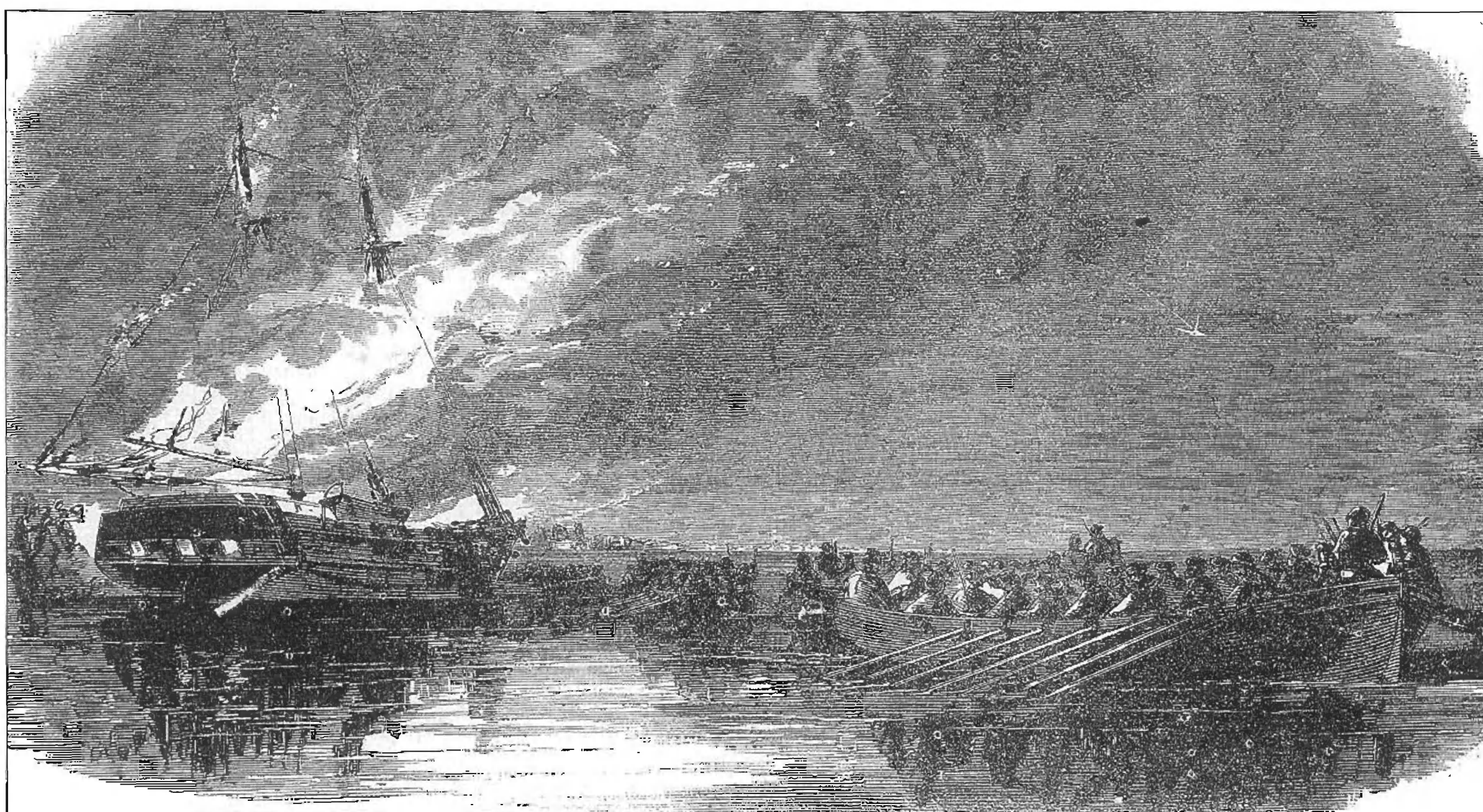
The first amphibious landing by the USMC during the Civil War took place when marines under Capt Shuttleworth took part in the operation to capture Forts Hatteras and Clark at Hatteras Inlet, NC, on August 28, 1861. Published in the *New York Illustrated News* on September 16, this engraving shows the difficult landing through heavy surf, which wrecked several boats. (National Archives 127-N-309959)



beached,” and the remaining landing parties were cancelled. Cut off from the fleet, the landing force took shelter while the Navy shelled the Confederate works. When, at about 3pm, the Federals ashore advanced along the beach toward Fort Clark, the Confederate garrison abandoned it and fell back to Fort Hatteras; the Marines and soldiers entered Fort Clark without a fight, and spent the night awaiting a counter-attack that never came. The next day Stringham succeeded in pounding Fort Hatteras into submission, following which he reported that not a “single officer or man of the Navy, Army, or Marines” was injured. The Federals had gained their first foothold on the North Carolina coast, and captured 670 prisoners, 1,000 small arms and 35 cannon.

Expedition against the *Judah*

On the night of September 13–14 the Marines attached to the Gulf Blockading Squadron saw action. Moored in the Pensacola Navy Yard in Florida, the schooner *Judah* was believed to be fitting out as a privateer, and it was decided to destroy both her, and a 10in Columbiad gun manned by Confederate Marines under Capt Van Benthuyzen at the southeast end of the yard. The expedition consisted of about 100 sailors and Marines from the US flagship, the screw frigate *Colorado*. Commanded by Navy Lt J.H. Russell, a



OPPOSITE Seated at left wearing a summer undress uniform, 1st Lt Allyn Stillman was one of the battalion of Marines aboard the *USS Governor* when it was wrecked in November 1861. (Courtesy David M.Sullivan)

OPPOSITE BELOW Marines and sailors from the *USS Colorado* pull away after having boarded and set fire to the Confederate privateer *Judah* in Pensacola Harbor, Florida, on September 14, 1861. (*Harper's Weekly*)

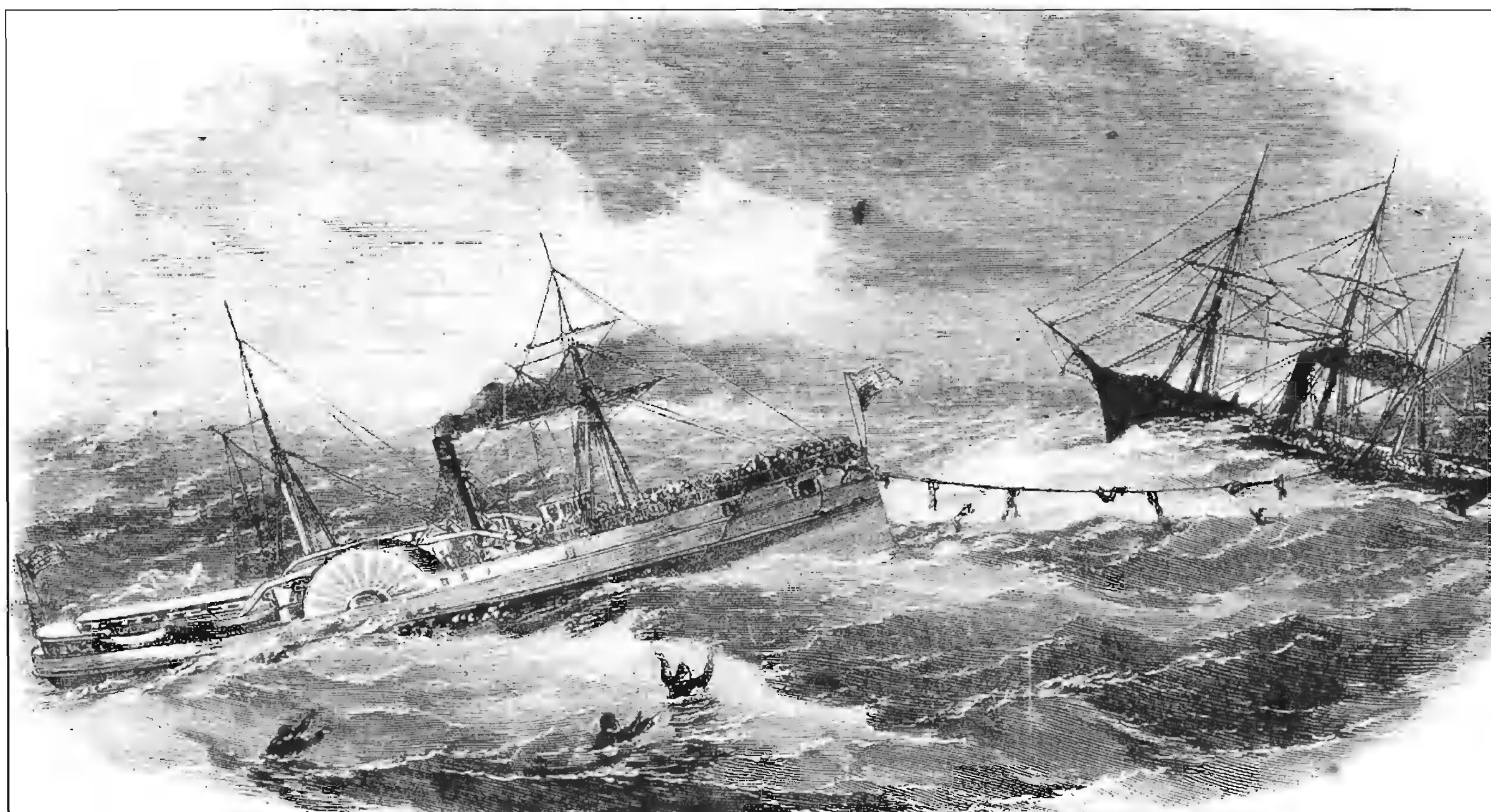
BELOW The frigate *USS Sabine* rescuing the Marine battalion from the sinking transport *Governor* on November 1-2, 1861. (Anne S.K.Brown Military Collection, Brown University Library)

launch and three cutters approached under cover of darkness and with muffled oars at 3.30am; the launch and one of the cutters made for the *Judah* while the others headed for the battery. Spotted by lookouts, the first party received a withering volley as they neared the vessel; but although a desperate resistance was made from the decks and rigging of the schooner during the 15-minute action, the Confederates were driven on to the wharf.

According to the report of William Mervine, Flag Officer of the Blockading Squadron, the US Marines "sustained the reputation borne by their branch of the service." Private John Smith was the first man to board the schooner; unfortunately mistaken for a rebel seaman because he had lost the "distinguishing mark" worn by the attackers (probably an armband), he was bayoneted to death by a comrade. Four other Marines were among the 13 Federals wounded, as was their leader, Capt Edward Reynolds, who received a slight wound in the left arm. Several seamen managed to locate the onshore Columbiad; shooting down the single sentry, they spiked the gun and made off with its tompion as a trophy, the other CS Marines arriving too late to engage their counterparts. The action ended with the *Judah* ablaze and drifting towards Fort Barrancas, as the raiding party rowed back out to the *Colorado*.

The Port Royal expedition

During the fall of 1861 it was proposed to capture Port Royal and thereby gain a foothold on the coast of South Carolina; and Capt Samuel F.DuPont, USN, requested that a battalion of 300 Marines be attached to his fleet. Nineteen officers and 330 enlisted men were organized under the command of Maj John Reynolds by mid-October; taken mainly from the Washington headquarters, plus the Boston and Brooklyn navy yards, these Marines left Hampton Roads in the chartered steamer *Governor* with the rest of DuPont's fleet on October





US Marine Pte Daniel O'Connor, who served aboard the USS *Cumberland* and survived the attack of the *Virginia*. Here he poses in full dress uniform; the two yellow collar and cuff loops have printed black, as is common in photographs of this period. (Courtesy David M.Sullivan)

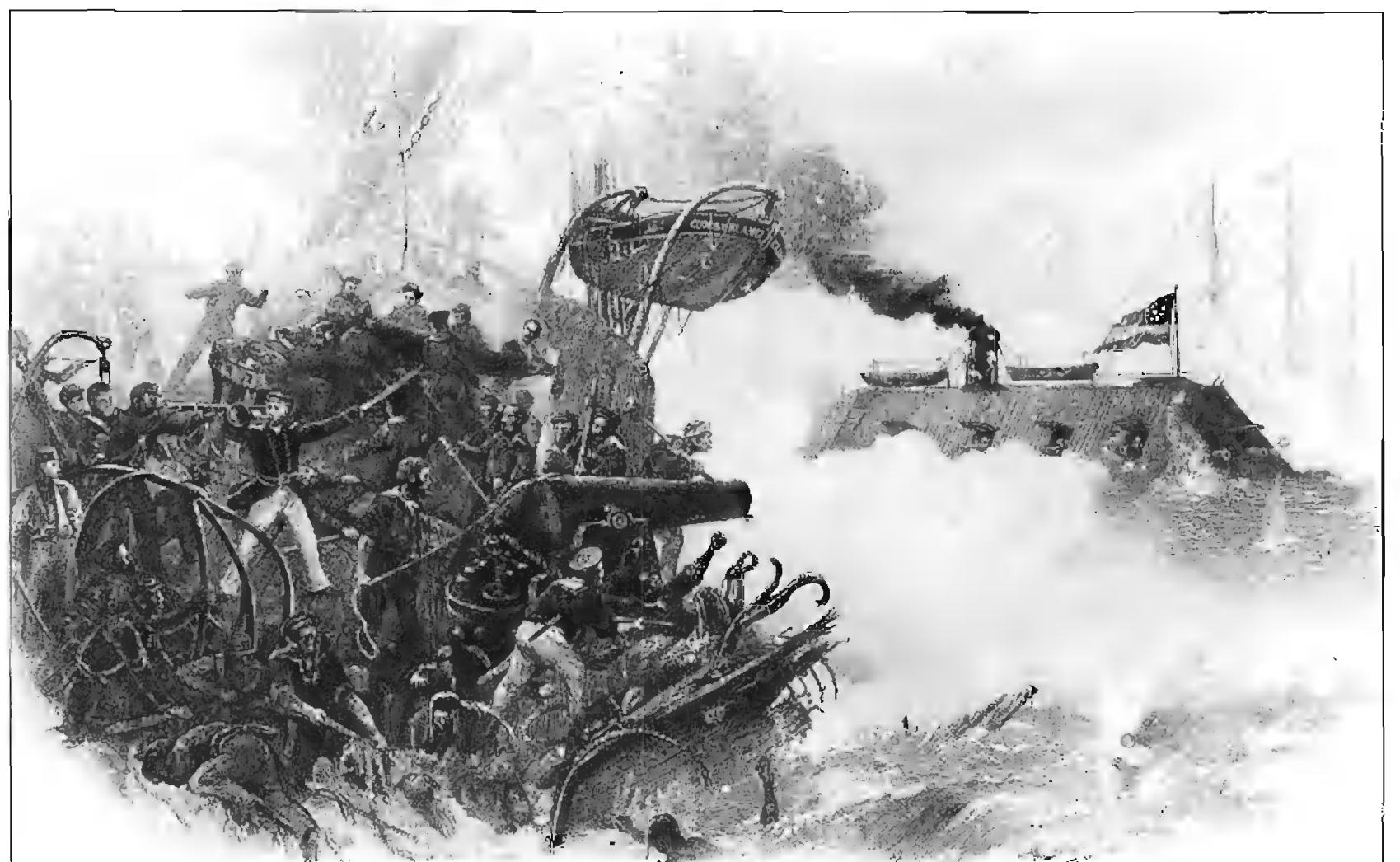
An engraving from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* showing the USS *Cumberland* sinking after being rammed by the ironclad *CSS Virginia* in Hampton Roads on March 8, 1862. Marine sharpshooters can be seen at left. (Naval Historical Center photo NH 65698)

29. In a severe gale three days later the *Governor* fell behind the other vessels; struck by several huge waves, she lost most of her smokestack, burst her steam pipe, and began to take in water. Due to the desperate efforts of the Marines, who manned the bilge pumps, the *Governor* continued to wallow in the troughs for another two days until the frigate *Sabine*, under Capt Cadwalader Ringgold, was able to take the survivors off. Although seven Marines were drowned or crushed between the two vessels because they disobeyed orders and broke ranks, the remainder of the battalion showed great courage, and the *Governor* was kept afloat long enough for Reynolds to recover most of the weapons, and half the accoutrements of his command, before the stricken transport finally sank. Nonetheless, the disaster prevented the Marines from taking part in the capture of Port Royal on November 7.

1862: The clash of the ironclads

On March 8, 1862, a new era in sea warfare dawned when the Confederate ironclad *CSS Virginia* (previously the USS *Merrimack*), supported by the gunboats *Patrick Henry* and *Jamestown*, steamed out of the captured Norfolk Navy Yard and headed straight for the Federal wooden ships on blockade duty in Hampton Roads off the Virginia coast. A total of 14 of the 46-man Marine Guard aboard the frigate *Cumberland*, commanded by Lt Charles Heywood (future colonel-commandant of the Corps), were

either killed during the following battle, or drowned when their vessel sank after being rammed by the *Virginia*. Nine Marines were killed or



wounded as the first shell from the ironclad struck the starboard after gun. Private Daniel O'Connor, who served as "first loader" on the cabin gun, narrowly escaped death when another shell passed within 6in of his head and struck a comrade in the chest, killing him almost instantly. In a letter to his family O'Connor wrote, "You could not step on the quarter deck with out walking through blood, mens legs in wan place arms in a nother [sic]."

After sinking the *Cumberland* the *Virginia* bombarded, captured and destroyed the *Congress*, and forced the remaining three blockading frigates aground. Withdrawing with her captain, Franklin Buchanan, wounded, the *Virginia* returned at dawn the next day to find the little Federal ironclad gunboat *Monitor*, under Cdr John L. Worden, waiting for her. Although the slugging match that followed ended in stalemate, the age of ironclad battleships had begun.

The occupation of New Orleans

Farther south, Flag Officer David G. Farragut, commanding the Western Gulf Blockading Squadron, had forced the mouth of the Mississippi; six Marines died and 22 were wounded as his fleet fought its way past Forts St Philip and Jackson to threaten New Orleans. Men from the remainder of the 333-strong Marine battalion at Farragut's disposal played a vital role in the final capture of the "Crescent City." Thirty Marines from the USS *Pensacola*, under 2nd Lt John C. Harris (nephew of the Marine Commandant) were sent ashore on April 26, 1862. Marching through the hostile crowds to the US Mint, they pulled down the Confederate flag and replaced it with the flag of the Union.

After three further days of unsuccessful surrender negotiations, the remainder of the Marines of Farragut's squadron, augmented by a detachment of sailors with two howitzers, were ordered to land. Commanded by Capt John L. Broome, they made their way along the wide city streets, first to the Customs House, then to the City Hall. Despite being pushed, abused, and spat upon by the angry mob, the Marines maintained their discipline and did not retaliate. At both destinations they raised the national colors and left a Marine Guard. For almost three days Broome's Marines were the sole authority of the US Government in New Orleans, until Gen Benjamin Butler's soldiers arrived and the Army took control of the city. On May 1 the Marines withdrew from New Orleans and returned to the vessels of their squadron.

Drewry's Bluff

Following the Confederate abandonment of the Sewell's Point batteries and the withdrawal from the Norfolk Navy Yard on May 9, 1862, a

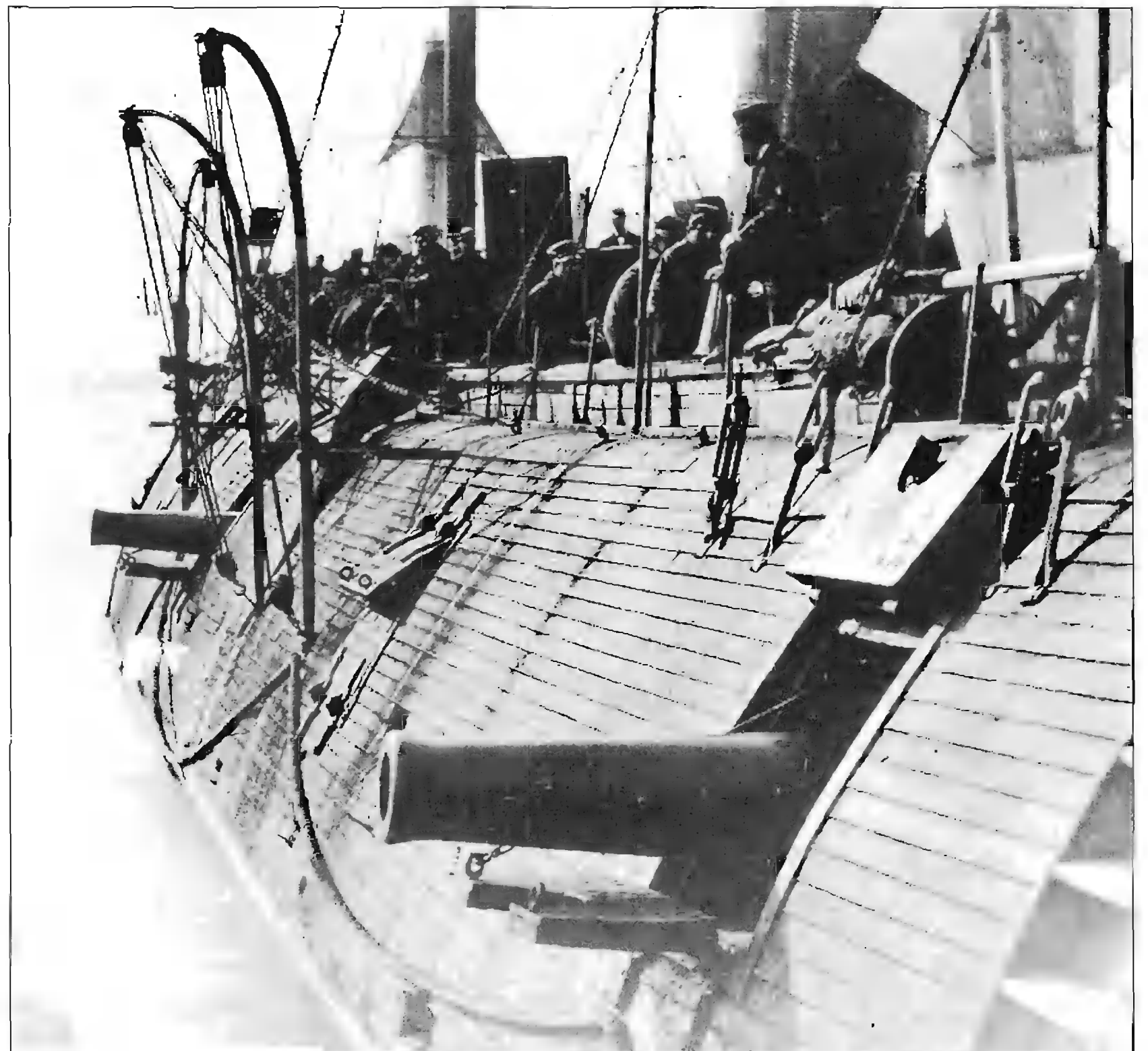


Posing here in full dress, 1st Lt John Campbell Harris (the nephew of US Marine Commandant Col John Harris) commanded the detachment sent ashore in New Orleans on April 26, 1862, to secure the Mint during the negotiation of the city's surrender. (George Menegaux Collection)

battalion of 200 US Marines under Capt Charles G. McCawley was sent to re-garrison the latter post. On May 15 the *Monitor*, her sister ironclad *Galena*, the floating battery *Naugatuck* and the side-wheel steamboat *Port Royal* probed up the James River in hopes of capturing the Confederate capital. Reaching Drewry's Bluff, about eight miles from Richmond, they encountered fire from a heavy battery and sunken vessels barring the river. Marine fought Marine on this occasion, as the riverbanks were lined with rifle pits manned by Confederate Marines. The *Monitor* was hit repeatedly, while the *Naugatuck's* Parrott gun burst. Aboard the *Galena*, which was also riddled, Cpl John F. Mackie, a 26-year-old native of New York City, and 12 men of the Marine Guard remained on deck firing at their counterparts on shore. When solid shot killed over a dozen seamen manning the ship's guns, Mackie and his Marine detachment replaced their fallen comrades, and served the Parrott Rifle for the remainder of the action. His bravery earned Cpl Mackie the Medal of Honor – the first such award received by a US Marine.

The surrender of the *Ariel*

At the end of that year the battalion of 136 Marines under Maj Addison Garland were not so successful. Embarking at New York on the mail steamer *Ariel* on December 1, they were assigned as a permanent garrison for the new naval base at Mare Island, California. Six days into her voyage the *Ariel* was off Cape Maysi, on the eastern tip of Cuba, when she was intercepted by the Confederate commerce raider *Alabama*, commanded by Capt Raphael Semmes. Initially forming his Marines to repel boarders, Garland changed his mind when shots from the *Alabama*



The crew of the ironclad USS *Galena* gather for the photographer after the engagement at Drewry's Bluff in May 1862. Several Marines are seated on the bulwark in the foreground. (Naval Historical Center photo NH53984)

came crashing into the rigging of the crowded steamer, endangering the lives of the civilian passengers aboard. The *Ariel's* flag was struck, and moments later the Confederate boarding party, led by Lt Richard F. Armstrong, CSN, climbed aboard. Garland ignominiously surrendered the weapons of his command, which consisted of over 200 new Enfield rifles with accoutrements, 2,000 rounds of ammunition, plus the officers' sidearms. The whole battalion was required to sign a parole, agreeing not to take up arms against the Confederacy again until formally exchanged.

Captain Semmes originally planned to land the *Ariel's* passengers on Jamaica, but changed his mind when he learned that yellow fever had broken out on the island. Thus the vessel was released on December 10, under a bond that \$261,000 – the appraised value of the ship and its cargo – would be paid to the Confederate government within 30 days of the end of the war. With control returned to its crew, the *Ariel* continued its voyage, and the Marines reached Aspinwall on the Isthmus of Panama two days later. Crossing the isthmus by train, they embarked on the steamer *Constitution*, finally arriving in San Francisco on December 27. They were officially “exchanged” on January 1, 1863.

1863: The siege of Charleston

During July 1863, Maj Zeilen, by then post commander at Brooklyn Marine Barracks, was ordered to recruit a Marine battalion to assist Rear Adm John A. Dahlgren and the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron in the siege operations against Charleston, South Carolina. The 276-strong battalion arrived at Morris Island, SC, on August 6. With those already taken from the vessels of his squadron Dahlgren now had at his disposal about 540 Marines, who were formed into a four-company battalion. By September 4, Zeilen had been taken ill and replaced in command by LtCol John Reynolds.

Men from the Marine battalion, under Capt Charles G. McCawley, joined a volunteer force of sailors, plus Marines from ships' guards, which conducted a disastrous assault on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor on September 8. This attack was prompted by the Confederate refusal to surrender Charleston following the Federal capture of Morris Island the day before. Due to a remarkable lack of communication between the Army and the Navy, Gen Quincy A. Gilmore, commander of the Department of the South, also planned for the Army to mount a boat attack on the fort on September 8. When he discovered the Navy plan Gilmore suggested that an Army officer assume overall responsibility for a combined operation; but Dahlgren declined to place his naval forces under Army control. The two boat attacks proceeded independently, although the Army attack was cancelled once the alarm had been raised following the failure of the Navy operation.

Arriving at the flag-steamer *Philadelphia* from Light House Inlet aboard the side-wheel tug *Daffodil* late in the afternoon of September 8, McCawley's Marines transferred to several large launches and waited for darkness. They then took their place among 25 boats containing naval personnel towed by the *Daffodil*. When they reached the fort the Marines were to give covering fire while the sailors landed, and were then to go in with the bayonet. Acting Master John P. Carr, commanding

Lt Andrew W. Ward was one of a battalion of 136 US Marines under Maj Addison Garland aboard the USS *Ariel* who were captured by the Confederate commerce raider *Alabama* on December 7, 1862. (National Archives photo 127-N-515334)





A Marine battalion commanded by Capt Charles G. McCawley took part in the unsuccessful boat attack on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor on September 8, 1863 – see Plate C. (Battles & Leaders)

the *Daffodil*, took the boats as close in as possible, nearly running his vessel aground, and then cast them off a quarter of a mile from Fort Sumter. In the confusion that followed, LtCdr Edward P. Williams hastily formed five boats into the first division, and ordered the crews to “lay on their oars” in silence while the tide swept them towards the fort.

Unknown to the assault force, the Confederates had captured and deciphered a Federal signal book and knew that an attack was imminent. Spotting the cutter commanded by Williams in the gloom, a Confederate challenged it twice, without a response. Finally, Williams replied, “Passing!” Not deceived, the sentry fired, alerting the garrison. Private Charles Leaman, one of the Marines in the boat commanded by Lt Horatio B. Lowry, recalled, “We waited there for a few minutes and then moved up, our boat being ordered up on the left... and just as we got our position, the sentry fired.” A rocket then signaled the harbor batteries to open fire. Leaman continued: “In a minute we heard the guns from Moultrie, Johnson and the batteries on Sullivan’s Island, and Sumter was playing with musketry and hand grenades as fast as she could.” Confederate Marines aboard the nearby ironclad CSS *Chicora*, under 2nd Lt Henry Melville Doak, also joined the fray, pouring volleys of musketry into the Federal boats as the attackers clambered on to the rubble at the shoreline.

Williams’ cutter beached and his party of seamen dashed for the walls, where they were pinned down beneath a protrusion of masonry level with the second tier of casemates, and could advance no further. A second boatload of sailors managed to land, only to find themselves in the same predicament. A cutter from the USS *Powhatan*, containing 15 Marines, also attempted to land, but its commander lost his nerve and

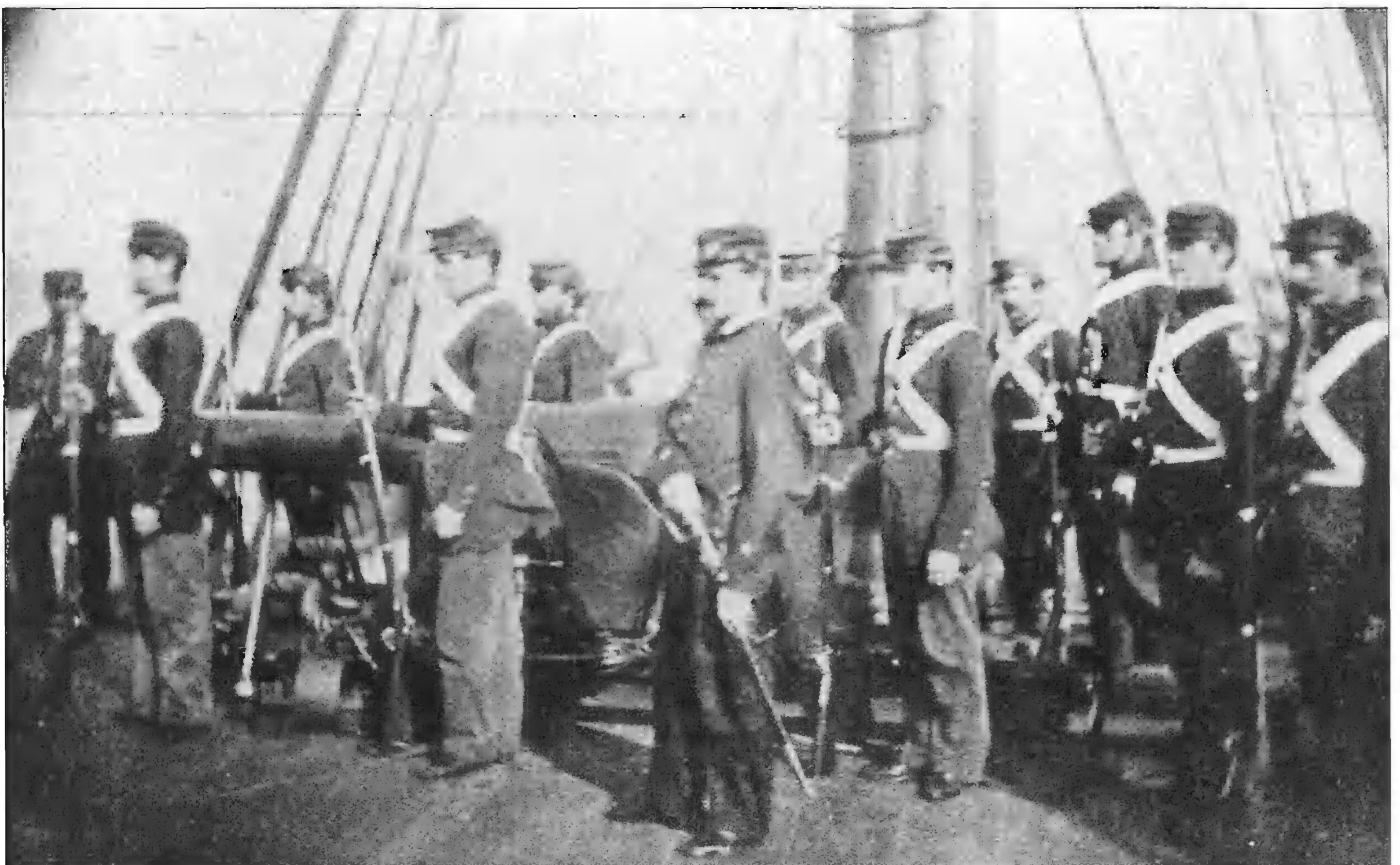
ordered his oarsmen to pull away – leaving only one Marine, Cpl Thomas Calley, and a Navy boatswain's mate, stranded ashore. Meanwhile, the Marines in the boats off shore commenced giving covering fire as ordered. Lieutenant Robert L. Meade recalled:

"I opened fire and kept it up for a short while when I heard a voice ashore (that of Lieutenant Commander Williams) to 'stop firing and land,' which I did as well as possible; my men suffering from the musketry fire and the bricks, hand grenades and fireballs thrown from the parapet. Immediately on striking the beach, I gave orders to land and find cover, which the men lost no time in executing." Meade's boat was the exception. Upon hearing orders to cease fire, all of the vessels containing Marines turned about and pulled away, joining those from the other divisions that had failed to land.

Meanwhile, the men ashore remained pinned down by a galling fire from the ramparts and loopholes. Scattered around the base of the fort, and unable to gather together, they began to surrender; in pairs and squads they descended the slope of rubble, and were ordered to march to the south face, where they climbed the debris to the parapet. On his way round, Lt William Remey found Lt Charles H. Bradford lying seriously wounded in the groin; he was carried into the fort, but died 15 days later.

Of the 25 boats that set out, only 11 managed to land at Fort Sumter; the rest were driven off or, as in the case of that commanded by Marine Lt John Harris, simply got lost in the confusion and returned to the ships. Of the 133 Marines who volunteered to take part in this attack, two were killed, six were mortally wounded, and two more were wounded but withdrew and recovered fully. Of the 34 Marines who were

The Marine detachment aboard the USS *Kearsarge*, armed with M1855 Harper's Ferry .58 caliber rifle muskets. (National Archives 127-N-515390)





Wearing full dress in this retouched portrait, Cpl Austin Quimby served aboard the *Kearsarge*, and provided a graphic account of the battle with the *Alabama*, June 19, 1864. (Naval Historical Center photo NH 42388)

captured, 16 were eventually paroled, while the remainder died as prisoners in Camp Sumter at Andersonville, Georgia.

Following this fiasco, Reynolds' Marine battalion went into camp on Folly Island and was broken up in late November 1863, its members being sent to garrison navy yards or to form much needed ships' guards.

The sinking of the *Alabama*

The Commandant of the US Marine Corps, the 73-year-old Col John Harris, died of fatigue and old age on May 12, 1864; and after a month of deliberation, Secretary Welles decided to retire all Marine officers past the legal age, and to recommend the appointment of Jacob Zeilin as Harris' replacement. By now recovered from his illness and serving as commanding officer of the barracks at Portsmouth, NH, Zeilin became the new Commandant on June 10, 1864. On the same date, Marines participated in one of the finest hours of the US Navy during the Civil War, when the guard aboard Capt John A. Winslow's screw sloop USS *Kearsarge* helped to sink the Confederate raider CSS *Alabama* off the coast of France.

Built secretly for the Confederacy by Laird & Company at Birkenhead, England, during 1862, and initially known only as "No.290," the *Alabama* spent 22 months on the high seas under the command of Capt Raphael Semmes, wreaking havoc among the Union merchant fleet. Having sunk, captured or bonded over 60 vessels, the raider was in need of repairs by March 1864, and made for the French port of Cherbourg to refit.

While off the English coast near Dover on June 12 the *Kearsarge*, which had been hunting for Confederate raiders in European waters for nearly two years, received word that the *Alabama* had arrived at Cherbourg. By dawn of June 14 the Federal sloop had taken up station off the port within sight of its quarry. Going ashore, Winslow received word from Semmes via the Confederate consul that he intended to fight as soon as the necessary arrangements were made; and five days later the *Alabama* steamed out of harbor to do battle. One of the Marine Guard aboard the *Kearsarge*, Cpl Austin Quimby, recorded in his journal:

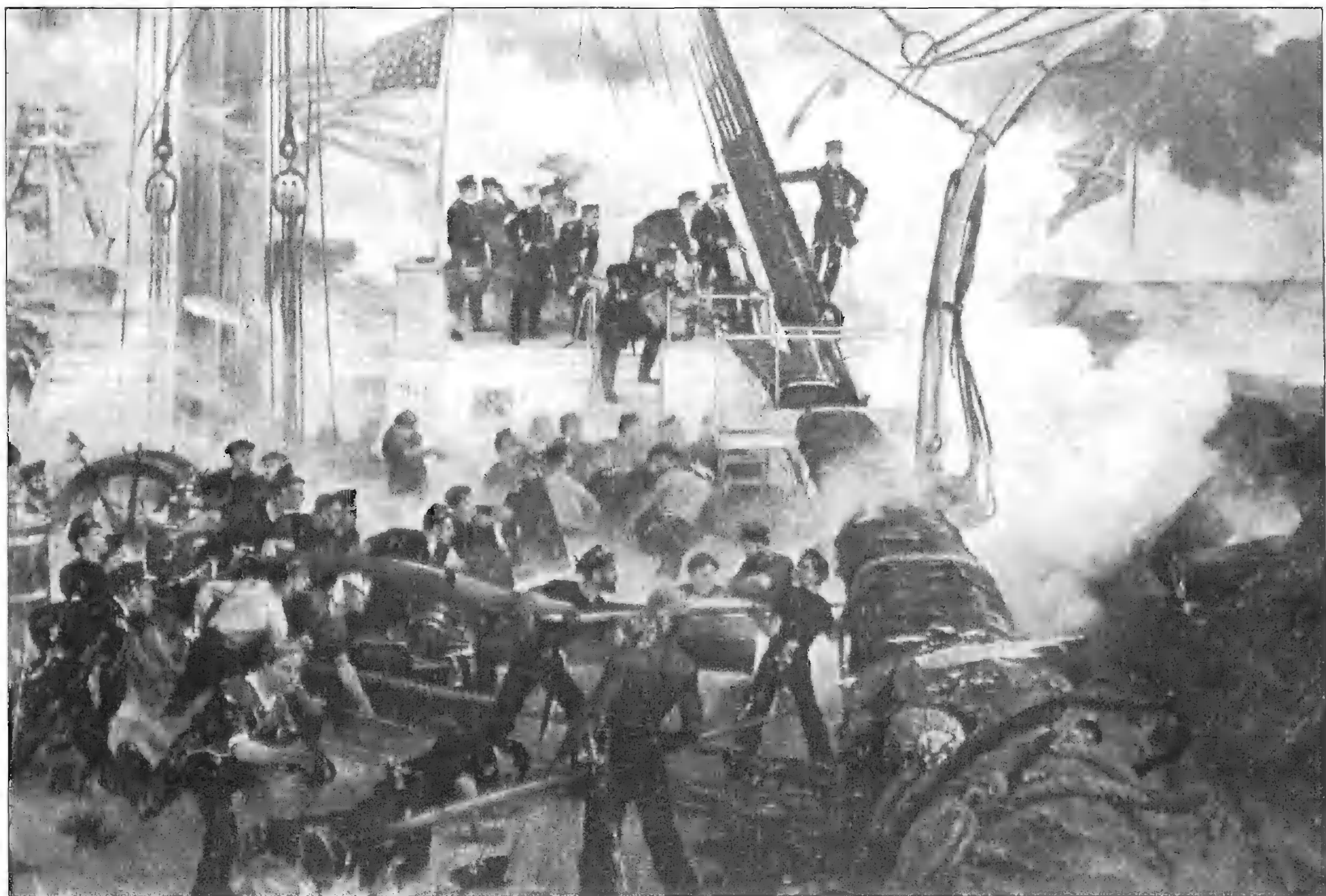
"Soon we saw the Rebel Flag. We then knew it was the pirate. Then it was clear the ship for action." The crew of the Federal vessel was so depleted by desertion that the Marines were needed to man the forecastle pivot gun, which was completely exposed to enemy fire. Quimby recalled: "When the battle first commenced, it made my hair stick right up straight but after we had got settled down to work and saw by their rapid and haphazard fire that they were not doing us much damage we took it easy... The Marines kept up a rapid fire with the rifle on the forecastle. As they would be clear of the smoke they would blaze away." After about an hour the *Alabama* hoisted a white flag, but then recommenced firing – much to

the disgust of the Federal crew. "Fire away, boys!" ordered Capt Winslow, and the Marines fired three more rounds from their rifles, while the rest of the battery fired twice. As a result, two 11in shells entered the coal bunker of the *Alabama*, causing an explosion that reached the yardarm. At this point the Confederates hoisted the white flag again, as their vessel began to sink.

While the *Kearsarge* prepared to lower its boats to save the survivors, LtCdr James S. Thornton noticed that the *Alabama* was attempting to rig a sail in an effort to get closer to the shoreline. He therefore ordered the Marines to aim a shot at those involved in the work; and seconds after they fired, a Confederate seaman trying to clear away the sail on the bowsprit was seen tumbling to the deck. Of the closing stages of the battle, Cpl Quimby wrote: "In just one hour and fifteen minutes from the time the *Alabama* fired her first shot the Notorious Pirate went to the bottom with her just deserts. After picking up the survivors and attending to their needs, our crew was piped to splice the main brace. After we had taken our drink some of our men went to see if the *Alabama's* men could have some whiskey. The Captain gave permission and they all appreciated the kindness."

The Marines were warmly praised in reports of this action. Acting Master James R. Wheeler, USN, recorded: "The Marine Guard, stationed at the rifle gun openly exposed to the fire of the *Alabama*, showed great coolness and efficiency in the discharge of their duties." Lieutenant-Commander Thornton concluded, "The high reputation of their service was nobly sustained by the Marine Guard of this ship."

David Farragut's flagship, USS *Hartford*, at close quarters with the ironclad ram CSS *Tennessee* during the battle of Mobile Bay in August 1864. US Marines can be seen serving the "great gun" in the center of the painting. (Naval Historical Division photo NH 644Z3KN)



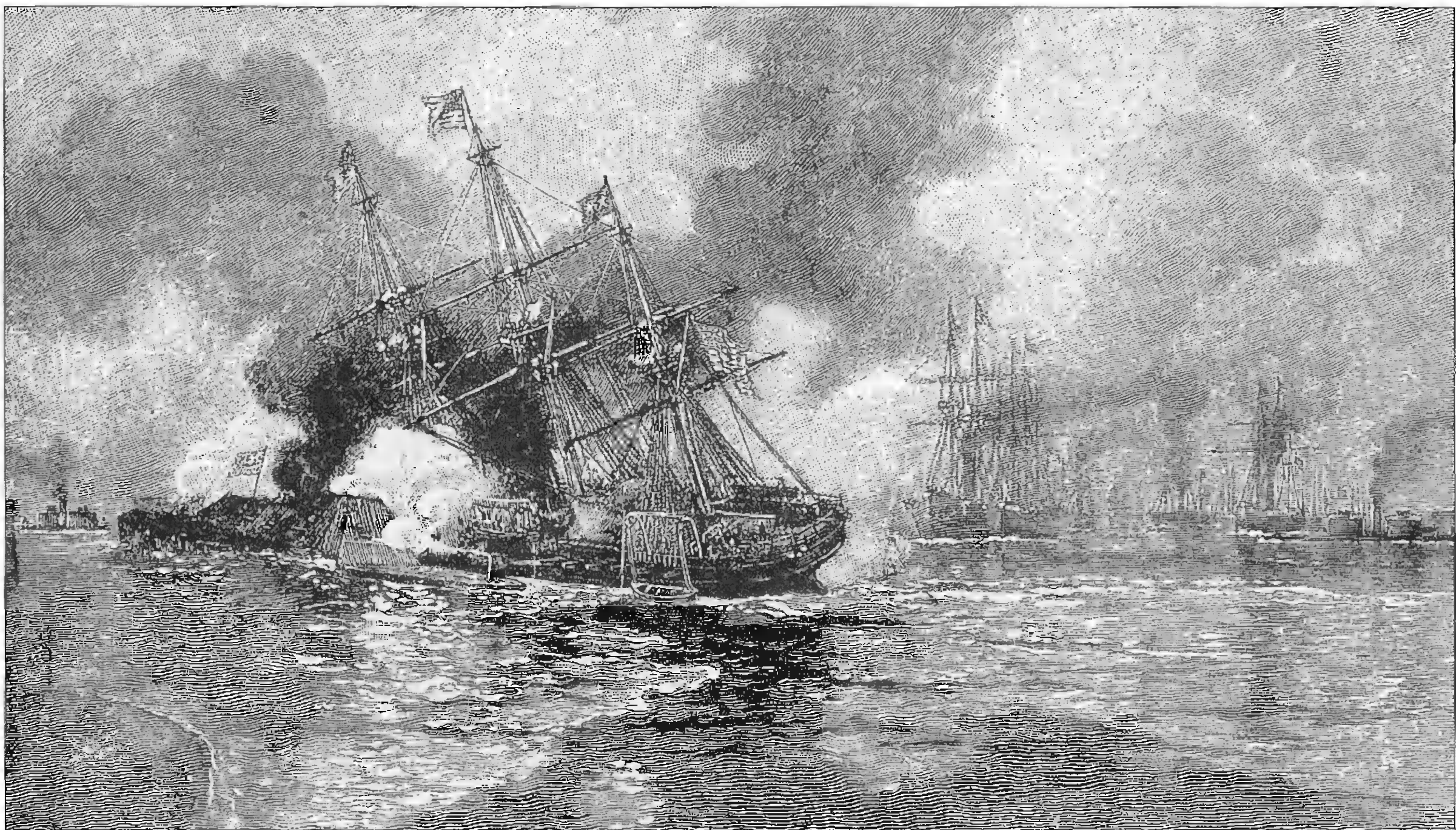
Battle for Mobile Bay

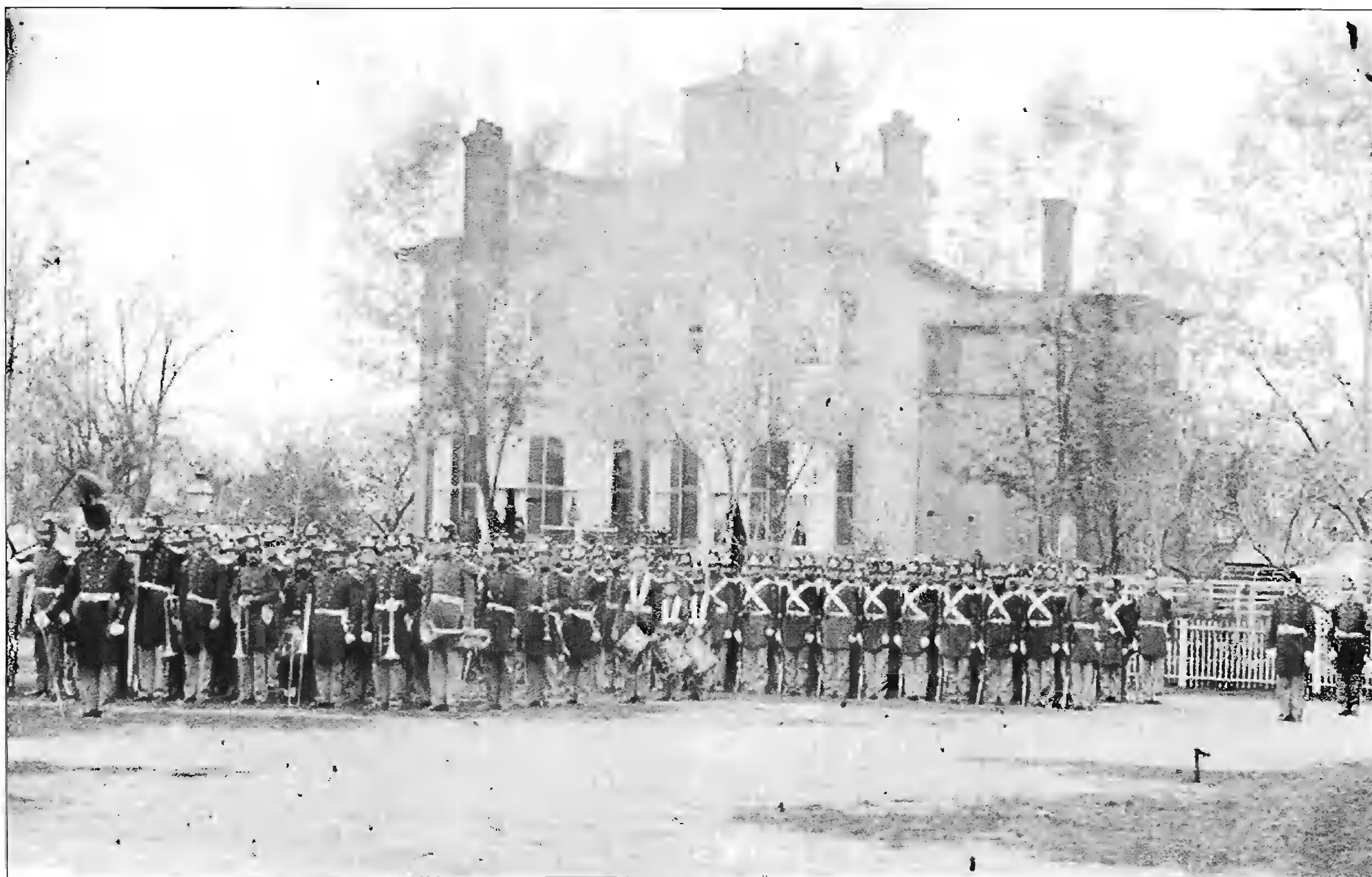
Following the capture of New Orleans, Adm Farragut planned to attack the port of Mobile on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, but events conspired against this. Forts Morgan and Gaines, guarding the narrow entrance to Mobile Bay, were protected by obstructions in the channel which prevented warships from getting close enough to reduce them; the Army had to be involved, but insufficient troops were available. Farragut therefore turned his attention back to the Mississippi, and the capture of Port Hudson and the other Confederate positions south of Vicksburg.

Preparations for the assault on Mobile were finally renewed during July 1864, with support from troops supplied by MajGen Edward R.S. Canby, commanding the Division of West Mississippi. The need to take the Confederate port was heightened by news that the newly built ironclad ram CSS *Tennessee* was operational in Mobile Bay; although a champion of the "wooden navy," Farragut responded by supplementing his fleet with the monitors *Tecumseh*, *Chickasaw*, *Manhattan*, and *Winnebago*. By August 4 all was in readiness for the assault. A member of the Marine Guard aboard Farragut's flagship USS *Hartford*, Pte Charles Brother, recorded in his journal, "The report is that we are going to fight tomorrow morning. Guess we are. God grant that we may have good luck."

The attack was launched at dawn the next day, with 14 warships tied in pairs and led by the screw sloop *Brooklyn*, which was lashed to the side-wheel steamer *Octorara*. Aware of the danger near Fort Morgan, Farragut ordered his captains to stay within the channel marked by buoys, as the water to either side was infested with "torpedoes" (mines) but the *Tecumseh*, commanded by Capt Tunis Craven, veered outside the channel and struck a mine, sinking within 20 seconds and taking 92 officers and men with her. Shocked by the loss and anxious that the *Brooklyn* should

The USS *Hartford* in collision with the *Tennessee* during the battle of Mobile Bay.
(Battles & Leaders)





not meet the same fate, Capt James Alden ordered his engines into reverse. As a result the rest of the Federal line of battle was halted, under a brisk fire from Fort Morgan and the nearby floating batteries.

Lashed securely to the rigging of his flagship, Farragut ordered the *Hartford* to take the lead with the immortal words, "Damn the torpedoes! Full steam ahead!" The other vessels followed; and Pte Enoch Jones, part of the small Marine Guard aboard the screw sloop USS *Lackawanna*, recorded that his ship "received a shot from the water battery witch [sic] passed through our bullworks just forward of our fore rigging & about 15 inches above the spar deck at No 2 gun a 150 pd. Rifle killing the captain of the gun & wounding most all of her crew & officers of the division so that the gun was silenced."

As the fleet forced its way past Fort Morgan the enemy flotilla waiting in the Bay went into action. Commanded by Adm Franklin Buchanan, this consisted of the ironclad ram *Tennessee* plus the gunboats *Selma*, *Morgan* and *Gaines*. Dodging the attention of the former vessel, the *Hartford* and *Metacomet* next came under fire from the gunboats, but their return fire caused much damage to the smaller Confederate vessels. Meanwhile, the *Brooklyn* and *Octorara* also passed into the bay, as did the USS *Richmond*, which had the side-wheel steamer *Port Royal* lashed to her side. Commanded by Lt Charles Sherman, the Marine Guard aboard the *Richmond* manned three of the quarterdeck guns, while the remainder formed at the ship's rail with their muskets, firing into the gunports of the *Tennessee* until the ram was out of range.

The *Tennessee* turned her attention next to the *Lackawanna*, which was tied to the steamer *Seminole*. Private Jones recalled that the ram was steaming for his vessel with "the intention of running her prow into us

A battalion of US Marines photographed on the parade deck in front of the Commandant's house at the Marine Barracks in Washington, DC, in April 1864. The officer second from the right is Lt John W.Haverstick; the officer commanding the battalion is Capt Lucien L.Dawson, while standing in front of the band is Drum Major John Roach. (Library of Congress)

but fortunately we was too fast for her as she passed our stern." Last in line was the screw sloop USS *Oneida*, lashed to the converted screw sloop *Galena*. The *Oneida* offered a tempting target as she was limping along, having received a shot through her starboard boiler; but three of the four primers in the *Tennessee's* broadside failed to ignite, and the *Galena* managed to tow the *Oneida* out of harm's way. There now followed a lull in the battle, as the *Tennessee* pulled away towards Fort Morgan, and the Federal fleet dropped anchor about four miles inside Mobile Bay.

The second phase of the battle commenced with the *Tennessee* steaming straight at the *Hartford*. Farragut responded by ordering his ship to meet the ram bows on, at full speed. Meanwhile the *Monongahela*, which had an iron casing fastened to her bows, smashed into the starboard side of the *Tennessee*. The impact wrenched the improvised ram device off the Federal sloop; she ran aground, and her broadside merely bounced off the ram's sloping sides. Aboard the *Lackawanna*, Pte Jones recalled: "The ram then steamed on past the *Hartford* & one or two others giving broadside for broadside then headed on for us. Our Captain seeing her intention ordered our engineer to go ahead at full steam... we struck her just a foot of her smokestack... the shock was so great that it caused both vessels to remain motionless for a time." Quickly recovering from the shock of impact, the sailors and Marines of the *Lackawanna* ran to the rail with muskets and revolvers, and fired into the open gunports of the *Tennessee*, which momentarily prevented the Confederate gunners from reloading.

With the port of her vital after pivot gun jammed shut, the *Tennessee* continued on her collision course with *Hartford*. The USS *Brooklyn* next made a run at her as she steamed slowly past, but the ironclad altered course and avoided collision; as the two vessels passed within 30 yards of one another the *Tennessee* loosed off a broadside from two of her 6.4in rifled guns, and a ricochet plunged into the *Brooklyn's* poop deck, killing two privates of the 49-man Marine Guard and seriously wounding another. In the confusion that followed discipline was maintained at the guns manned by the Marines aboard the *Brooklyn*. Corporals Miles Oviatt and Willard Smith calmed their men while awaiting an opportunity for a clear shot at the ironclad. "Stand fast, men! Steady," shouted Oviatt, as the smoke began to



OPPOSITE Born at Carlisle, Pa, in 1842, John Wilson Haverstick was commissioned second lieutenant of US Marines to rank from March 18, 1864. He served at the Marine Barracks, Washington, DC, from April 2 until June 21, 1864, following which he transferred to the Brooklyn Barracks. (USAMHI photo RG985-CWP28.64)

clear; the *Brooklyn* delivered her broadside, but only one shot took effect, destroying the *Tennessee's* smokestack, while the rest bounced harmlessly off the ram's casemate.

Aboard *Hartford*, Marine Pte Brother recalled the moment when the ram hit his ship. "The Admiral gave the order for us to run at her... We made for her but did not strike her fairly. She swung round against us & fired a shell into us that killed & wounded eight men. Luckily her other guns did not go off or she must have swept our berth deck clean." Having cleared the *Hartford*, the *Tennessee* became the target of the entire Federal squadron, and at this point her exposed steering chains were severed. With the loss of rudder control and reduced engine power due to the destruction of her smokestack, the ironclad struggled to gain momentum. Realizing her plight, Farragut signaled to his vessels to finish her off.

The *Lackawanna* attempted to ram the *Tennessee*, but misjudged her speed and ploughed into the *Hartford* instead. According to Pte Brother, "She struck us just abaft the main rigging, crushing in our bulwarks, dismounting 2 guns and raising the d—l generally [sic]. I thought sure she would sink us but she did no damage below the water line. As soon as we got clear of her, disabled as we were we started for the ram again." As the rest of the squadron continued an incessant bombardment of the ironclad, a boarding pike with a white rag attached was waved from one of the *Tennessee's* ports: the battle was over. Eight US Marines, including Cpls Oviatt and Smith, were cited for gallantry in action during this battle, and were subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor on December 31, 1864.

The assault by Breese's naval brigade on the northeast salient of Fort Fisher on January 14, 1865. Captain Dawson's Marines can be seen advancing on the far right; six would receive the Medal of Honor for their conduct during this action. (Battles & Leaders)

THE FLEET BRIGADE

After the fall of Atlanta, 60,000 Federal soldiers under MajGen William T. Sherman began what became known as the "March to the Sea" on November 15, 1864. Nine days later a Federal naval brigade, sometimes referred to as the Fleet Brigade, was organized to assist MajGen John G. Foster, commander of the Department of the South. In particular, this



unit was charged with the destruction of the Charleston & Savannah Railroad, which would prevent Confederate troops from being sent down from South Carolina to oppose Sherman.

The brigade was composed of about 350 sailors plus 157 US Marines from ships of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, under the overall authority of Cdr George H. Preble. The Marine component was led by Lt (acting LtCol) George G. Stoddard, commander of the Marine Guard aboard the USS *New Hampshire*. The seamen were formed into a battalion of artillery and one of skirmishers, while the Marines formed a three-company third battalion of skirmishers, with a sergeant fulfilling the role of captain for each small company. After several days of intensive training in battalion drill at Bay Point on Edisto Island, SC, the Fleet Brigade embarked on the gunboats *Sonoma*, *Mingoe* and *Pontiac* on November 29, and entered the mouth of the Broad River, about 30 miles down the coast, under cover of a heavy fog. Penetrating inland a further 20 miles, the flotilla turned up a winding creek south of Boyd's Neck, where they were eventually discovered by a Confederate cavalry picket.

Honey Hill

Debarking from the *Sonoma* in ship's boats, the Marines quickly deployed as skirmishers and proceeded towards Grahamville, with the battalion of naval infantry marching in column, and the naval gunners bringing up the rear with two four-gun batteries of naval howitzers. An Army contingent, unofficially designated as the "Coast Division" and amounting to about 5,500 men under BrigGen John P. Hatch, landed at the same place as the main body of the expedition. Meanwhile, the Fleet Bde advanced rapidly inland, but made several wrong turns due to inaccurate maps; they eventually joined forces with the Coast Div near the Bolan Church, at the junction of Honey Hill and River Roads, where they entrenched and bivouacked for the night.

The next morning a general advance on the Charleston & Savannah Railroad began. After marching no more than five or six miles the expedition collided with Confederate forces near Honey Hill. The Marines were initially held in reserve, but after about two hours' fighting they were ordered forward along with the 55th Massachusetts, to relieve the 144th New York on the right of the Union line. The Marines advanced slowly through nearly a mile of thick woods and swamp before going into line of battle on the double-quick. For the next three hours they engaged with Confederate infantry and artillery, while Jeremiah Cogley, the battalion acting quartermaster-sergeant, braved heavy enemy fire to keep his men supplied with ammunition from the rear. Around 2pm, Acting Ensign Woodward Carter, USN, who was serving as acting major of the battalion, took 20 Marines in an attempt to feel out the enemy left flank, but returned without success. It was apparent that



Lt Charles F. Williams was breveted a captain for "gallant and meritorious conduct" at Fort Fisher on January 14, 1865. Here he wears the short fatigue jacket with pointed sleeve trim – compare with Plate B2. (Photo courtesy of his great-grand-nephew Ted Williams)

OPPOSITE Sgt Richard Binder, of the Marine Guard aboard the USS *Ticonderoga*, was awarded the Medal of Honor for serving his ship's guns "with skill and courage" during the two major assaults on Fort Fisher in December 1864 and January 1865. He is seen here as a private at the beginning of the war. (Marine Corps Historical Center)



the attempt to push through the entrenched Confederate positions to the railroad was failing, and the Federal force was ordered to withdraw that evening. Despite the length of the engagement, the day's fighting at Honey Hill saw only one Marine killed, seven wounded (one mortally), and one missing.

Tullifinny Crossroads

Failure to reach the Charleston & Savannah Railroad via the Broad River prompted Adm Dahlgren and Gen Foster to try a different route. On December 5 the Fleet Bde and a brigade of infantry were transported up the Tullifinny River to Devaux's Neck, where they were to advance inland to destroy the Tullifinny River bridge. Disembarking at Gregory's Landing, the infantry advanced first with the naval brigade following behind. The expedition quickly came into contact with a motley assortment of Confederate state militia and cadets, but once again failed to reach their objective; the Marine battalion took little part in this action. At daylight the next morning the Confederates counter-attacked, driving back the troops to the right of Co C of the Marine battalion and effectively cutting them off from the rest of the force. However, Ensign Carter, who commanded this company, managed to extricate it with the loss of only one man wounded.

The next day a third attempt was made to destroy the railroad bridge, by clearing several 100-foot wide lines of fire through the woods to allow the Federal artillery to shell the railroad. The Marines occupied the extreme right of the 600-man Federal "skirmish brigade," struggling waist-deep through tangled swampland. The skirmishers were supported by another thousand Army troops, who were followed in their turn by the axe-wielding 25th Ohio Infantry, who were tasked with felling trees to form the required lines of fire.

Advancing within 50 yards of the enemy positions, Stoddard's Marines did not receive the order for skirmishers to withdraw once a sufficient number of trees had been felled, and became isolated when the troops to their left pulled back. Fortunately, the dense swamp prevented the Confederates from overrunning his position, and Stoddard managed to get his men back to their own lines, where they were assigned a new post on the Federal left. Thereafter the operation settled into a stalemate. With



Pte Charles Leaman, a survivor of the bungled landing at Fort Sumter in September 1863, left an eyewitness account of the US flag being raised over the ruins once more on April 14, 1865. Note the bugle horn ornament on his fatigue cap, and the plain plate on his waist belt. The tie is a civilian item. (USAMHI)

Sherman's seizure of Savannah on December 21, and the subsequent Confederate retreat, the expedition's continued presence on the Carolina coast was no longer a priority. Six days later the Marines and seamen were transported back to Bay Point; the sailors were dispersed to their respective vessels, while the Marines went into camp. On January 5, 1865, the Marine battalion was disbanded, the ship's guards returning to their posts. Stoddard's battalion had lost 23 killed, wounded and missing during their six weeks of service. Considering that the force had been assembled from very small detachments from a dozen vessels, and that the Marines' battalion drill was the work of a single afternoon, its members had performed far better than expected.

The Broad River expedition represented the last large-scale Marine field operation within the area of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron. The focus of coastal action moved northward with the advance of Sherman's armies, and many of the Marines who had gained experience in Adm Dahlgren's Fleet Bde would go on to serve with the ill-fated naval column in the bloody assault on Fort Fisher, NC, in early 1865.

1865: Fort Fisher

By the end of 1864 the only Confederate port on the Atlantic coast that remained open to blockade runners was Wilmington, NC, which was defended by the formidable Fort Fisher on Cape Fear. An abortive attack launched on Christmas Eve by MajGen Benjamin F. Butler, commander of the Army of the James, was followed on January 15, 1865, by the greatest amphibious assault of the Civil War, by a force commanded by Gen Alfred

H. Terry. The US Army's 24th Corps landed to secure the Confederate works from the landward side, while a naval brigade under Cdr Kidder R. Breese, composed of 1,600 sailors and 400 Marines, attacked "the sea face" of Fort Fisher.

Deployed as sharpshooters during the advance of the naval brigade, the Marines under Capt Lucian L. Dawson, the senior Marine officer of the squadron, were caught up in a generally disorganized assault, in which the Army attack was delayed. Hopelessly pinned down at the base of the defenses, a few Marines managed to pass through the breach blown in the 9ft palisade, but were forced to fall back with heavy casualties. Henry B. Hallowell, a corporal in the Marine Guard from the USS *Juniata*, recalled:

"The guns from the fort poured grape and canister into us, cutting us to pieces. A few managed to crawl to the base of the fort, others tried to retreat, but this was made impossible by a barrage being thrown over our

heads from the fort to prevent retreating. We were in a pretty fix, with the fort raking our ranks from the front and the shells exploding at our rear. History states that we entrenched ourselves. The only entrenching we did was to hug the ground and dig with our noses and toes.”

After prolonged exposure to withering musketry and cannon fire the sailors, carrying only “cutlasses, well sharpened, and... revolvers,” plus a few Sharps rifles, broke and ran, taking the Marines with them. Nonetheless, this “diversionary” attack enabled the Army, assisted by a further force of 180 Marines, eventually to take Fort Fisher. A number of Marines distinguished themselves, and six received the Medal of Honor for this action. Orderly Sergeant Isaac N. Fry and Sgt Richard Binder, from the USS *Ticonderoga*, received the award for the manner in which they commanded ship’s guns during the bombardment of the fort. Corporal Andrew J. Tomlin, of the USS *Wabash*, shouldered a wounded comrade and carried him to safety during the land attack. Corporal John Rannahan, and Ptes John Shivers and Henry Thompson, from the USS *Minnesota*, advanced further than any other Marines within their detachment: LtCdr James H. Parker, commanding the shore party from that vessel, remarked that “Thompson got nearer the fort than any one from our ship by a few yards. They [all] deserve promotion and medals.” The Marine battalion sustained 15 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded, and one officer and 45 men wounded, during the final major action of the US Marine Corps in the Civil War.

Return to Fort Sumter

Following Sherman’s advance from Savannah on January 17, 1865, the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron was once again required to form a Fleet Brigade to assist the land forces. Led by Cdr Fabius Stanly, USN, the Marine Bn was again placed under command of Lt George Stoddard. These Marines had an opportunity for action during the landings at Bull’s Bay, SC, on February 12–17, 1865. With Sherman’s columns approaching from the interior, and naval forces driving up the coast from Bull’s Bay, the Confederates at Charleston, under Gen William J. Hardee, were threatened on two fronts, and hurriedly abandoned the city. By February 24, Marines of the Fleet Bde were landing at Georgetown, SC, where they acted as a provost guard.

On April 14 a battalion of Marines formed part of the main guard on the parade ground for the flag-raising ceremony at Fort Sumter. Observing the occasion from his post aboard USS *Philadelphia*, Pte Charles Leaman recalled: “The forts were crowded with guests and I never seen so much bunting displayed as I have this day on the vessels here. All nations is represented and all manners of flags are flying, except the rag that reigned here this day four years... The Flag was raised at one o’clock when the saluting from the Fort, the fleet and the remaining forts commenced, and in a few minutes the Fort, fleet and all was hidden in smoke.”

UNIFORMS, ARMS & EQUIPMENT:

Officers

The uniform worn by the US Marine Corps in the Civil War was adopted on January 24, 1859, although it was mid-1861 before all Marines were supplied with the new outfit.

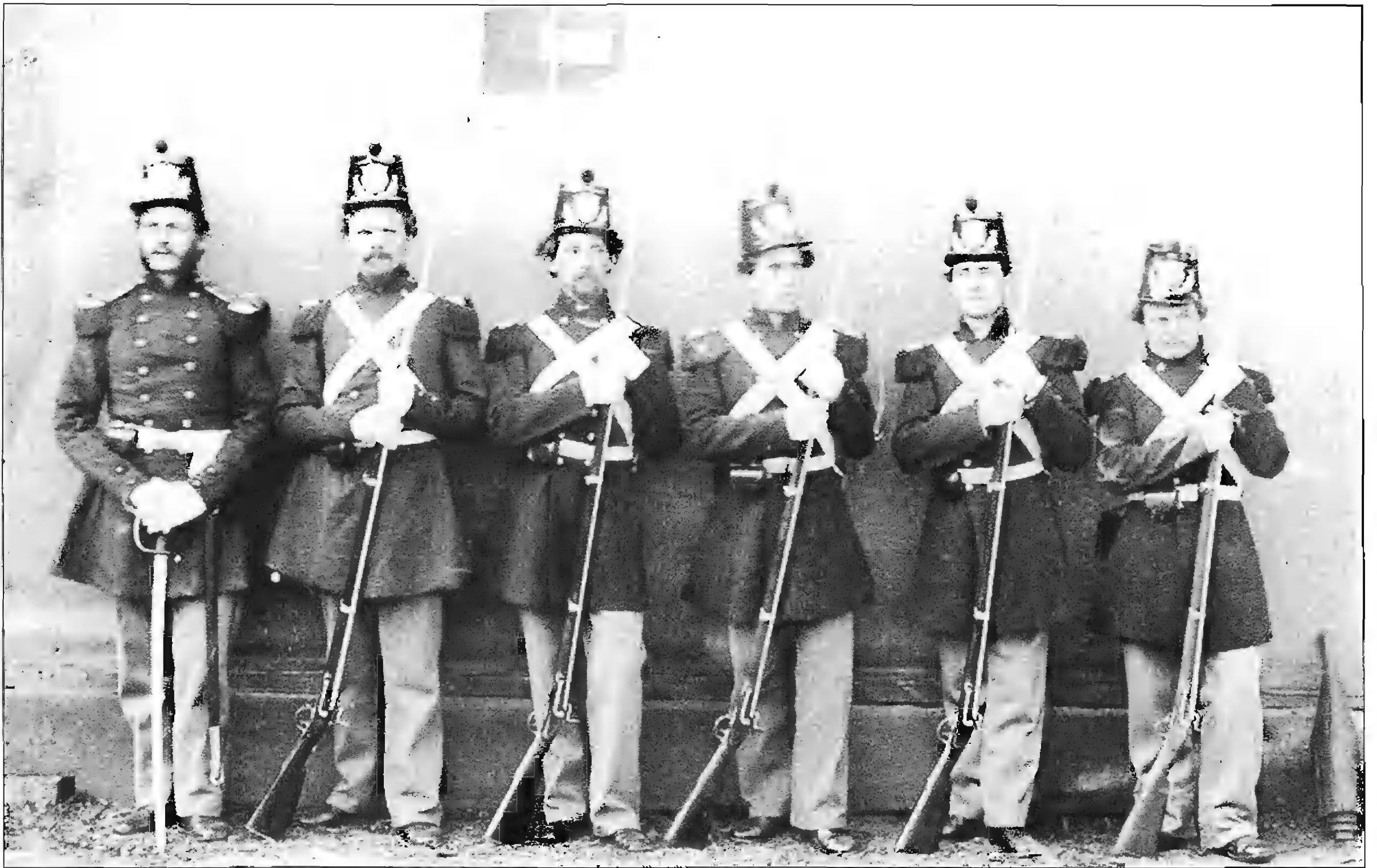


William H. Parker wears the full dress for USMC lieutenants. His rank is indicated by two gold loops on each cuff flap, and bullion fringing one-eighth inch in diameter on his epaulettes. The red feather "fountain" plume on his cap indicates that this is a late-war image. (National Archives 127-N-517102)

OPPOSITE Excellent study of a sergeant (left) and five privates posing in full dress for a Brady photograph at the Marine Barracks, Washington, DC, in April 1862. The sergeant holds the modified M1850 foot officer's sword adopted by the Corps on June 3, 1861, as its NCO sword. Again, the yellow loops and fringes on the uniforms have printed black. (Library of Congress)

The full dress prescribed for officers consisted of a dark blue, double-breasted frock coat with eight buttons in each row. The standing collar was edged all around with gold lace and scarlet trim, and displayed two loops of gold lace on each side, with a small Marine button at the end of each. The flaps on the cuffs and pockets in the skirts were also edged with scarlet. Rank was indicated by loops of gold lace on the cuff flaps,

OPPOSITE Photographed wearing undress, Pte Patrick Mullen served with the Pacific Squadron aboard the sloop USS *Lancaster* during the Civil War. (Courtesy Michael J. McAfee)



and by Army-style devices attached to the straps of gold epaulettes. Sky-blue trousers were worn in cold weather and white linen in summer; a scarlet welt was sewn into the outer seam of the cold weather trousers. Full dress headgear for staff and field-grade officers consisted of a French-style chapeau with feather adornment, which was yellow for the Commandant and red for field officers. Company-grade officers wore a stiff black shako with a gold net pompon, which was later changed to red feathers. At the front of the cap was a gilt US shield within a half-wreath, with a Marine bugle horn insignia inset.

The undress uniform worn by Marine officers consisted of a dark blue, double-breasted frock coat, also with eight buttons in each row, and with full skirts and a short standing collar. The collar, cuffs and skirt pockets were plain. Trousers were the same as those worn with full dress. Rank was indicated by Army-style devices mounted at the end of detachable gold shoulder knots with a scarlet underlay. An 1863 order replaced the shoulder knots with Army-style shoulder straps for staff and field-grade officers. A white linen uniform of the same pattern was worn in warm weather. Undress headgear consisted of a dark blue cloth fatigue cap with a black ribbed silk



A sergeant of the Marine Guard aboard the *USS Miami* wears the pullover fatigue "sack" prescribed for seagoing duty at the beginning of the Civil War – see Plate B3. (Detail from Naval Historical Center photo NH 60873)

ABOVE RIGHT April 1865: a Marine sentry aboard *USS Montauk* guards Lewis Paine, one of the Lincoln assassination conspirators. The single shoulder belt indicates that his bayonet scabbard is frogged to his waist belt. (Library of Congress)



band at the base of the crown. Narrow black silk bands were also sewn vertically up the four sides, and looped to form a quatrefoil knot on the crown. The cap ornament consisted of a gold embroidered horn on a scarlet background, with a silver Old English "M" within the curl of the horn. A flat-crowned straw hat with black band could be worn in warm weather.

Marine officers were also prescribed a dark blue, waist-length fatigue jacket fastened by a single row of 16 small Marine buttons. A low standing collar was edged all around with gold lace, and a 6in inverted gold lace "V" embellished each lower sleeve. Rank was indicated by shoulder knots. Overcoats or "cloak coats" for Marine officers were of dark blue cloth lined with scarlet, and fastened by four frog buttons. Rank was shown by the number of braids in the black silk knot at the cuffs.

In 1859, the Model 1827 Mameluke sword was replaced by the M1850 Army foot officer's sword. The prescribed sword belt was white glazed leather fastened by the M1851 eagle-wreath sword belt plate. A waist sash of buff silk net, with bullion fringe ends, was worn under the sword belt by the Commandant; the sash worn by all other officers was of crimson silk.

Enlisted men

The full dress for enlisted Marines consisted of a dark blue, double-breasted frock coat with two rows of seven Marine buttons. The high standing collar bore two loops of yellow worsted lace, with a small

Marine button at the end of each; the collar was edged all around with scarlet trim. The two-loop cuff flaps, and pockets in the rear skirts, were also trimmed with scarlet. Brass epaulettes were fixed to each shoulder, and had removable yellow worsted fringing of various widths according to rank. Non-commissioned officers were further distinguished by chevrons of yellow lace on a red background, attached points-up above the elbow on both sleeves. They were also authorized to wear the M1850 foot officer's sword, which was secured to the waist belt by a sliding frog. The dress shako was of dark blue felt, with the same cap ornament as used by officers, plus a red pompon. Like their officers, enlisted men wore sky blue trousers in cold weather, with scarlet seam stripes for NCOs, and white linen trousers in warm weather.

Undress for enlisted men consisted of a single-breasted dark indigo blue kersey frock coat with one row of seven Marine buttons, trimmed with a scarlet welt sewn into the lower seam of the short standing collar. Headgear was a dark blue cap patterned after the French kepi; the frontal ornament was a yellow metal horn, in the curl of which was a white metal letter "M" fastened to a disk of red leather. A waterproof cover was available for foul weather, and a white linen cover was worn in warm weather. Enlisted men aboard sea-going vessels also wore a dark indigo blue pullover fatigue "sack," open halfway down the front and fastened with four small Marine buttons. This was replaced later in the war by a flannel frock coat with fold-down collar and a single row of six buttons. In cold weather enlisted Marines were issued blue-gray wool overcoats with stand-up collar and detachable cape, fastened with a single row of seven large Marine buttons; rank chevrons for NCOs were worn on the cuffs. All Marines wore leather stocks around their necks with full dress and undress uniforms.

At the beginning of the war the standard small arm was the .58 caliber M1855 rifle musket; however, the battalion at Bull Run in 1861 carried .69 caliber M1842 muskets. Later the Corps was issued a mixture of M1861 and M1863 Springfield rifle muskets. Regarding accoutrements, all enlisted Marines wore whitened buff leather cross belts, the cartridge box belt running from left shoulder to right hip and the bayonet belt from right shoulder to left hip. A plain, oval-shaped plate was secured to the intersection of the two belts. A white waist belt supported a black leather cap pouch, and was fastened by a plain rectangular plate. On some occasions white cross belts were felt to be too conspicuous in



This corporal wears the six-button fatigue coat with folded collar, recommended for USMC enlisted men by a board of survey in 1864 to replace the pullover "sack." (Courtesy Michael J. McAfee)

battle. In preparation for the night attack on Fort Sumter on September 8, 1863, the Marine battalion was instructed that the "white belts on dark clothes offer too good a mark, their color must be changed," and they were painted black. Later in the war, the Marines relegated bayonet belts to full dress and attached a bayonet scabbard to the waist belt, while retaining the cartridge box belt over their left shoulder. Regulations specified that knapsacks should be of unshaven black cow hide, but most were of painted canvas. Haversacks and canteens were the same as those issued to the US Army.

CONFEDERATE STATES MARINE CORPS

1861: Organization and recruitment

Seventeen days after its establishment on February 4, 1861, the provisional government of the Confederate States of America passed an act to create a Navy Department, with Stephen R. Mallory as Secretary of the Navy. Working closely with Congress, by March 12 Mallory had prepared a budget that provided for the creation of a Navy and Marine Corps. Four days later an Act of the Congress established the Confederate States Marine Corps, and authorized the creation of a headquarters consisting of a major, a quartermaster, a paymaster, an adjutant, a sergeant-major, and a quartermaster sergeant. This act also legislated for a battalion of six companies, each to consist of a captain, a first lieutenant, a second lieutenant, four sergeants, four corporals, two musicians and 100 men. The decision to use a company-based organization followed more closely that of the British Royal Marines than the US Marine Corps.

The first officer appointed to the Confederate Marine Corps was Reuben T. Thom, a Virginian, and Quartermaster General of Alabama prior to the war. He received the rank of captain on March 25, 1861; and on the same day he established a recruiting office in the then-Confederate capital of Montgomery, Alabama, and recruited the first three enlisted Marines: Jacob E. Scholls, R. E. Smyley and James A. Baxter. The former was a veteran of the US Marine Corps who had served from 1844 until 1852, seeing action in the Mexican War.

On May 20, after an enlargement of the Confederacy with the secession of Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina, an Amendatory Act increased the CS Marine Corps from battalion to regimental strength of 46 officers and 944 enlisted men. Three days later Lloyd J. Beall was appointed colonel and Commandant of the Corps, and he would serve in this capacity until the end of the war. A Marylander, Beall had no previous experience as a Marine, but had served as a lieutenant in the 1st US Infantry from 1830 until 1836; he had then transferred to the 2nd US Dragoons, where he was promoted to captain and fought in the Seminole War, 1837-38.

The Amendatory Act also provided for a lieutenant-colonel, a major, an adjutant and inspector-general with the rank of major, and two (principal) musicians. Appointed on June 18, the lieutenant-colonel was Henry B. Tyler Sr, who occupied this post until the end of the war. Born in Virginia, he had been appointed a second-lieutenant in the US



Francis Hawkes Cameron received a commission as a second lieutenant in the Confederate States Marine Corps on September 20, 1861. When photographed in January 1862 he was still wearing the dark blue coat he had acquired as a member of the US Coast Survey, 1859–61, though the Austrian-style sleeve knots were added after he joined the Confederate Marines – see Plate E3. (National Archives photo 127-G-515827)

Marine Corps in 1823 and reached the rank of captain by 1845. After the secession of his home state Tyler resigned his commission to “join his fortunes with the Noble Sons of the South.” The adjutant was none other than Israel Greene, who had led the US Marines who captured John Brown at Harper’s Ferry in 1859. This New Yorker had entered the Corps in 1847 and served with distinction until the outbreak of Civil War when – married to a Virginian – he cast his lot with the South.

On June 1 the tiny Virginia Marine Corps was added to the ranks of the CS Marine Corps. Established on April 27, 1861, the Virginia Marines consisted of ten officers but only about nine enlisted men; some of them may have seen limited action at the Sewell’s Point Battery on May 19, before they came under Confederate authority.

The recruitment of enlisted Marines began in earnest in New Orleans during April 1861. Commissioned on March 29, by April 7 Capt George

Holmes was in that city, where he established an office on the corner of "Chartres and St Philip's st[reet]s – upstairs." Captain Alfred C. Van Benthuisen had opened another office by the next day at 39 Front Street. In an advertisement in the *Daily Delta*, "Able-bodied soldiers" were offered a \$10 bounty, plus "many fine advantages – little work, and excellent food, clothing, and pay." By June 29, a total of 194 men had been recruited, many of them perhaps deserters from regular US Army units based in Texas. By April 26 a company of 100 Marines, under Capt Van Benthuisen, was already manning a heavy battery facing Fort Pickens, off Pensacola, and were being drilled in the use of heavy guns as well as small arms; they also performed duties as Harbor Police. A contingent of 12 men under Lt David G. Raney Jr was assigned as a guard aboard the steamer *Time* in Pensacola harbor on June 19; a further 23 men under Lt Richard H. Henderson were assigned to shipboard duty on the CS Steamer *McRae*, which subsequently took part in the unsuccessful defense of New Orleans in 1862. Another contingent of 21 Marines, under Lt Becket K. Howell, formed the guard aboard the CSS *Sumter*, the first Confederate Navy raider.

The Ship Island expedition

In June 1861 the whole crew of the CSS *McRae*, plus its Marine Guard, were involved in the successful action on Ship Island in the Gulf of Mexico, about 12 miles south of Biloxi, Mississippi. This island was the site of the construction of a Federal fort begun in 1859, but little had been completed of what became known as Fort Massachusetts by the

beginning of the Civil War. A plan to occupy and fortify Ship Island for the Confederacy was conceived by MajGen David E. Twiggs during May 1861. In command of the *McRae* (in the absence of Lt Thomas B. Huger, CSN), Lt Alexander F. Warley was initially asked by Capt Edward Higgins, a member of Gen Twiggs' staff, to provide men for an expedition against enemy launches believed to be prowling in the Mississippi Sound. Joined by an additional 35 Marines under Capt Thom, this force left New Orleans in the steamers *Oregon* and *Swain* on July 5, under the overall command of Capt Higgins. Failing to locate any of the enemy launches, Higgins determined to occupy Ship Island; and arriving off its shores on July 6, Higgins ordered 140 men plus an 8in gun, a 32-pdr, and two small howitzers put ashore under Lt Warley. According to this officer, the sailors and Marines ran up "the heavy guns through the sand, laying the platforms, and building sand bag breast-works in a manner calculated to gratify every officer in the expedition."

Three days later the Union steamer USS *Massachusetts* appeared off the island and exchanged fire with the Confederates, but

(continued on page 42)

A newspaper recruitment notice for the Confederate States Marine Corps, published in the *Daily Dispatch* of Richmond on May 8, 1862.
(Author's collection)

WANTED –
FOR THE MARINE CORPS,
ABLE BODIED MEN,
to serve at Naval Stations, and on board of steam ships on the renowned Confederate steamer "Virginia" and on board of iron-clad gunboats and other vessels of the Navy. They will be entitled to receive a bounty of **FIFTY DOLLARS** AND **PRIZE MONEY,** when engaged in the capture or sinking of any of the enemy's craft—or even as witnesses in the action by which such desirable results may be obtained. Men suitable for non-commissioned officers particularly wanted. A few boys will be received, with the consent of their parents or guardians, as learners of music. **A PREMIUM** of two dollars will be given to any person who will present a recruit to the Recruiting Officer for enlistment, after he has been examined and received as a marine. Good clothing and subsistence will be furnished by the Government. For further particulars apply at basement under the Quartermaster's Office, 115 Broad street. **GEO. P. TURNER,**
Captain and Recruiting Officer
ap 30—3w



US MARINES AT FIRST MANASSAS (BULL RUN), JULY 21, 1861 See commentary for details



B | US MARINES ON BLOCKADE DUTY See commentary for details



US MARINES ATTACK FORT SUMTER, SEPTEMBER 8, 1863 See commentary for details



D US MARINE FULL DRESS, WASHINGTON NAVY YARD See commentary for details



CS MARINES, PENSACOLA, 1861 See commentary for details



F CS MARINES AT DREWRY'S BLUFF, MAY 15, 1862 See commentary for details



CS MARINES CAPTURE THE USS *UNDERWRITER*, FEBRUARY 2, 1864 See commentary for details

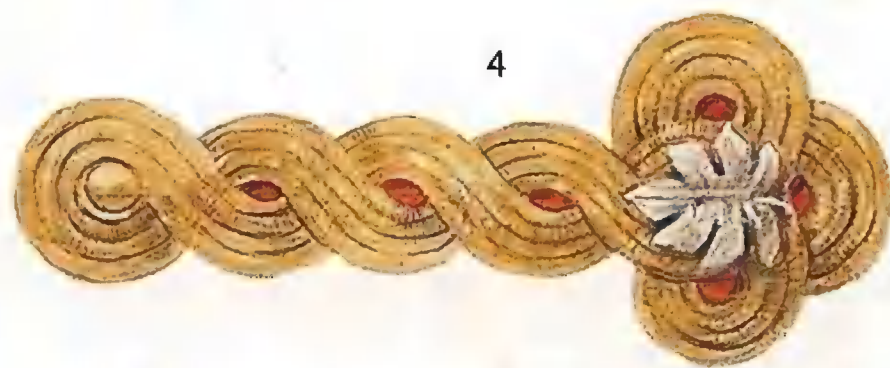


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10b



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Lt David G. Raney Jr, photographed at Mobile in 1863, wears the undress uniform for officers of the CSMC, of gray with dark blue facings at collar and cuffs; rank is indicated by shoulder knots, collar bars and sleeve knots. He was appointed second lieutenant on April 22, 1861, and promoted first lieutenant on November 22 of that year. Commanding the Marine Guard aboard the ironclad ram *CSS Tennessee*, he was captured during the battle of Mobile Bay in August 1864. After parole Raney saw further action, and finally surrendered on the Tombigbee River, Alabama, on May 9, 1865. (Florida State Library, Tallahassee)

withdrew after being struck by "three or four damaging shots" from the shore battery, which was partially manned by the Marines. A correspondent of the *Daily Delta* of New Orleans reported: "The men worked like beavers, and fought with a wild delight. Four of the enemy's balls fell successively near our battery, and within a space of thirty feet square. The balls were picked up by our boys, placed in our 32-pounders, and fired back at the scamps, with the compliments of our brave gunners."

Port Royal

Captain George Holmes arrived at Savannah, Georgia, with Co A of the CS Marines on September 18, 1861, following which he probably supplied ships' guards for the so-called "Mosquito Fleet" commanded by Flag Officer Josiah Tattnall, which consisted of the converted river steamboat *Savannah*, the converted tug boat *Sampson*, the screw steamer *Lady Davis*, and the transport *Resolute*. With the approach of the Federal fleet to the bar of Port Royal, SC, on November 4, these four tiny vessels steamed out of the Savannah River and along the coast. Finding the enemy, "forty-four sail strong," off the mouth of the Port Royal Entrance, they fired shots at long range for about 40 minutes before retiring inside the harbor. They bravely repeated this tactic the next day, and once again dropped back into safe waters, the *Savannah* having received damage to her "upper works." Two days later, and following stormy weather, the Federal fleet finally got underway and forced a passage past Forts Walker and Beauregard, with the USS *Minnesota*, the flagship of Capt Samuel F. Dupont, leading the way.

With the Federal squadron bearing down on him, Flag Officer Tattnall gallantly ordered the commander of the *Savannah*, J.N. Maffit,

A CS Marine Guard under Capt Reuben Thom was assigned to the ironclad *CSS Virginia*, converted from the USS *Merrimack*, and commissioned for service at Norfolk, Virginia, on February 17, 1862. (Naval Historical Center photo 58712)



to steam towards Hilton Head, following which she opened fire with her 32-pdrs upon the *Minnesota*. When that vessel began to return fire, and the paddle-wheel frigate USS *Susquehanna* gave chase, the *Savannah* made for the protection afforded by the shallow waters of Skull Creek. Going alongside Seabrook's Landing, most of the Marines aboard the *Savannah* were ordered ashore under Capt Holmes, and were marched to the relief of Fort Walker. About an hour later a contingent of sailors and the rest of the Marines from the *Sampson*, commanded by Tattnall, set out carrying naval ammunition to the same post.

Coming within about a quarter of a mile of the fort, Holmes went ahead alone to "see how matters stood." Meanwhile, Tattnall learned that the fort had succumbed to the ferocious bombardment and had been evacuated. Assuming that Holmes had been captured, he ordered the entire naval contingent to return to their vessels. As they withdrew, with Marine Lt David Raney Jr bringing up the rear, they were joined by numerous survivors from the Fort Walker garrison, and were fired upon by US Marines from USS *Wabash* under Capt Isaac T. Doughty, who had been sent out as a protective picket from Fort Walker. Captain Holmes made his own way back to Seabrook's Landing, and eventually rejoined his command after it had departed for safety aboard the *Sampson*.

Pensacola

During September 1861, Confederate Marines had limited involvement in the Federal boat attack on the privateer *Judah* moored in the Warrington Navy Yard (see above). On October 9 they were held in reserve during a Confederate raid on Union forces occupying Santa Rosa Island, although Marine Lts Calvin L. Sayre and Wilbur Johnson served as volunteer aides to Gen Richard H. Anderson, who commanded the operation. Lieutenant Sayre was wounded and captured, while "fearlessly using his revolver."

Captain Van Benthuyzen's Co B of the CS Marines manned the 10in Columbiad on the stone wharf inside the Warrington Navy Yard during the Federal bombardment of the defenses at Pensacola on November 22–23. Meanwhile, commanded by Capt Thom, Co C served as infantry in the Navy Yard, but were withdrawn when two men were wounded by flying bricks after a shot penetrated the wall.

Shortly after the Federal attack on Pensacola, Thom's company was ordered to Virginia. Arriving at Petersburg during early December 1861, they were described in the local press as being "a splendid company of men, numbering 110 – all active, young, and able-bodied... Their commander gives them the character of being the most desperate fighting men in the South, and woe be to the luckless Yankees that engage them."

1862: Hampton Roads

Upon arrival at Richmond, detachments from Co C were assigned to the gunboats *Patrick Henry* and *Jamestown*, while the remainder were ordered to report to Flag Officer French Forrest at the Gosport Navy Yard, near Norfolk. Commanded by Capt Thom, they eventually went aboard the ironclad CSS *Virginia*, and took part in the battles of Hampton Roads on March 8–9, 1862 (see above). With little opportunity to serve as sharpshooters aboard the ironclad, these Marines manned several of the

guns, with Capt Thom commanding one in person. In his report Capt Franklin Buchanan, CSN, the executive officer of the *Virginia*, stated that "The Marine Corps was well represented by Captain Thom, whose tranquil mien gave evidence that the hottest fire was no novelty to him." Meanwhile, aboard the *Jamestown*, the Marines under Lt James R.Y. Fendall served one of the two "great guns" with "coolness, rapidity, & [precision]."

Following the success in Hampton Roads, the CS Marine Corps began a new recruiting campaign by advertising in the Richmond press during May 1862, using the following rather exaggerated text: "In the late naval engagements in Hampton Roads, there were about one hundred marines, who had the pleasure of witnessing the departure, and expediting the journey of three or four hundred Yankees on their way to 'Davy Jones' locker." Able-bodied recruits received a bounty of \$50, and were offered service at naval stations and on board ironclad gunboats. Prize money was promised to those involved in the capture or sinking of an enemy vessel. Men suitable for duty as non-commissioned officers were required, while "a few boys" as "learners of music" were also needed. Recruits were instructed to report to the office of Capt George P. Turner in the basement under the Quartermaster's Office at 115 Broad Street in Richmond.

Drewry's Bluff

With the Confederate withdrawal from the Peninsula and the evacuation of Norfolk during early May 1862, the *Virginia*, *Patrick Henry*, and *Jamestown* were forced to withdraw up the James River towards Richmond. As her draught was too deep to negotiate the shoals, the *Virginia* was abandoned and burned off Craney Island on May 11. The smaller gunboats steamed up as far as Drewry's Bluff, about eight miles below Richmond, where the *Jamestown* was sunk to complete the river obstruction, while the *Patrick Henry* was moored to house the Confederate Naval Academy until the evacuation of Richmond on April 3, 1865. The guns from both vessels were added to the defenses at the Bluffs, and the officers and crews went ashore to man these guns. Meanwhile, the crew of the *Virginia* reached Richmond by train on May 12, and were quickly sent downriver to Drewry's Bluff to supplement the Confederate forces there. They were to see



OPPOSITE James R.Y.Fendall, ■ second cousin to Robert E.Lee, was photographed in 1863 wearing the same uniform as in the portrait of Lt Raney; he also carries a fatigue cap with a gray crown and dark band. Commissioned a second lieutenant in the CSMC on August 13, 1861, he was assigned to Company C, and served at Pensacola during the Union bombardment. When his company was transferred to Virginia on November 26 he was promoted first lieutenant and placed in command of the Marine Guard aboard the gunboat *CSS Jamestown*. He was praised for the "zeal & courage" he displayed during the battles of Hampton Roads in 1862. Fendall was one of the last Confederate Marine officers to surrender in May 1865. (Courtesy David M.Sullivan)

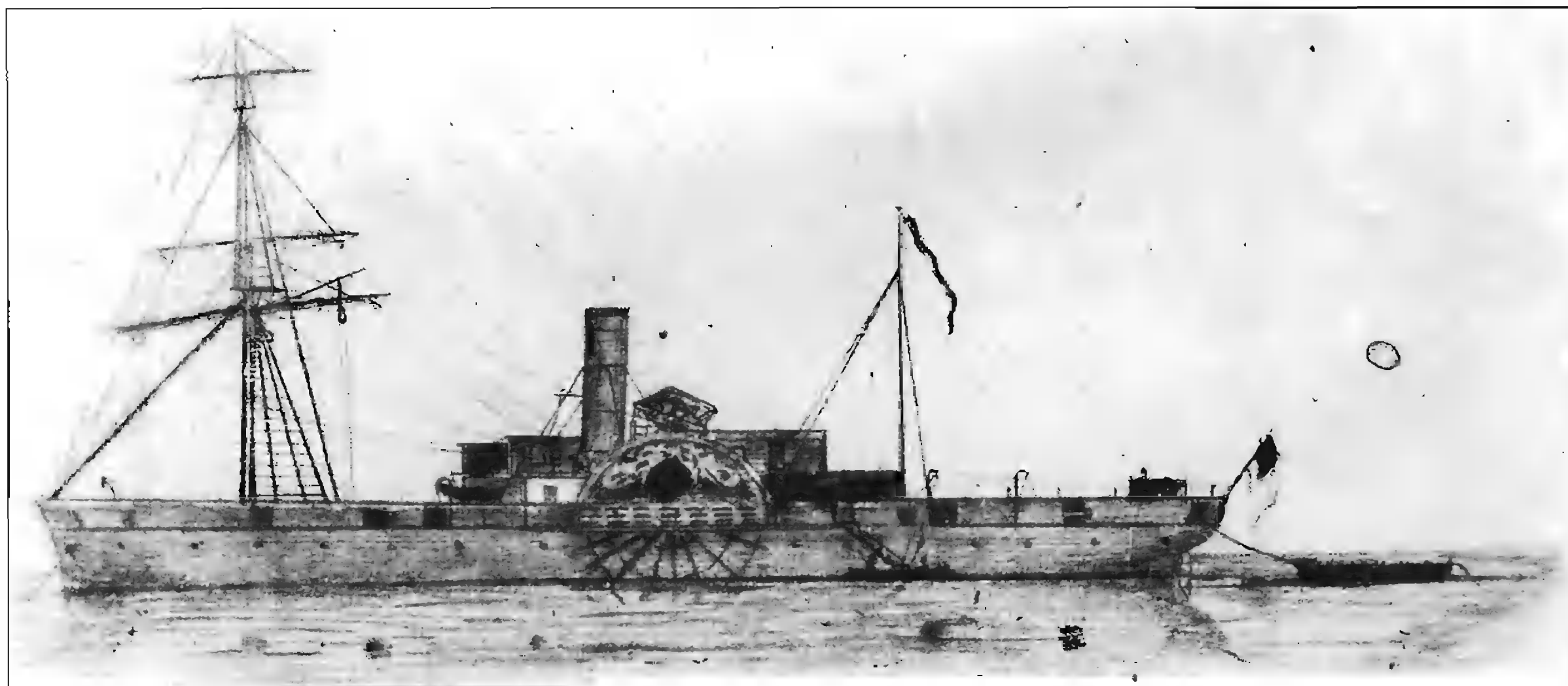
Marines from Co C were assigned to the side-wheel steamer *CSS Patrick Henry* upon arrival at Richmond in December 1861. This wartime sketch was inscribed by John Thomas Scharf, who served aboard the vessel during 1863, by which time she housed the Confederate States Naval Academy. (Naval Historical Center photo NH 42807)

further active service almost immediately, with the arrival of Union Cdr John Rodgers' squadron of gunboats on May 15 (see above).

In preparation for an attack, a two-company battalion of Marines under overall command of Capt John D.Simms, a former US Marine officer, were placed in rifle pits in the thick undergrowth along the bluffs to serve as sharpshooters. According to Simms, as the gunboats approached the Marines "opened a sharp fire upon them, killing three of the crew of the *Galena* certainly, and no doubt many more. The fire of the enemy was materially silenced at intervals by the fire of our troops." An eyewitness to the affair reported to the *Richmond Dispatch* that "As the fleet moved off, our sharpshooters, who lined the banks of the river for two or three miles, poured their deadly missiles into every port-hole and at every pilot-house." Consisting of men from the companies of Capts Van Benthuyzen and Julius Meiere, plus the ship's guards from the *Virginia*, *Patrick Henry*, and *Jamestown*, the Marines involved in the repulse at Drewry's Bluff sustained no casualties.

During the summer of 1862, Cos B and C of the CS Marines were organized into a field battalion, and were joined by Co A under Capt George Holmes, who transferred from Savannah, Georgia. As the Navy Department and Marine Corps Headquarters were both established in Richmond during the same period, the Richmond area became the center of CS Marine Corps activities for the rest of the war. At Camp Beall the Marines constructed their own wooden barrack buildings, which were probably finished by January 1863. Joined by their families, plus some refugees from Norfolk and Portsmouth, the whole community was eventually served by a post office and hotel.

Recruiting for the CS Marine Corps in the port of Mobile, Alabama, began during the summer of 1861. Captain Thom enlisted 46 men for Co C from July 24 through mid-September, following which he took them to Pensacola. Following the surrender of New Orleans in April 1862, Mobile became an important Confederate Navy and Marine Corps center. Commanded by Capt Julius Ernest Meiere by October 8, 1862, the Marines posted there served as a depot unit supplying replacements to other companies. They also furnished the guard for the station and



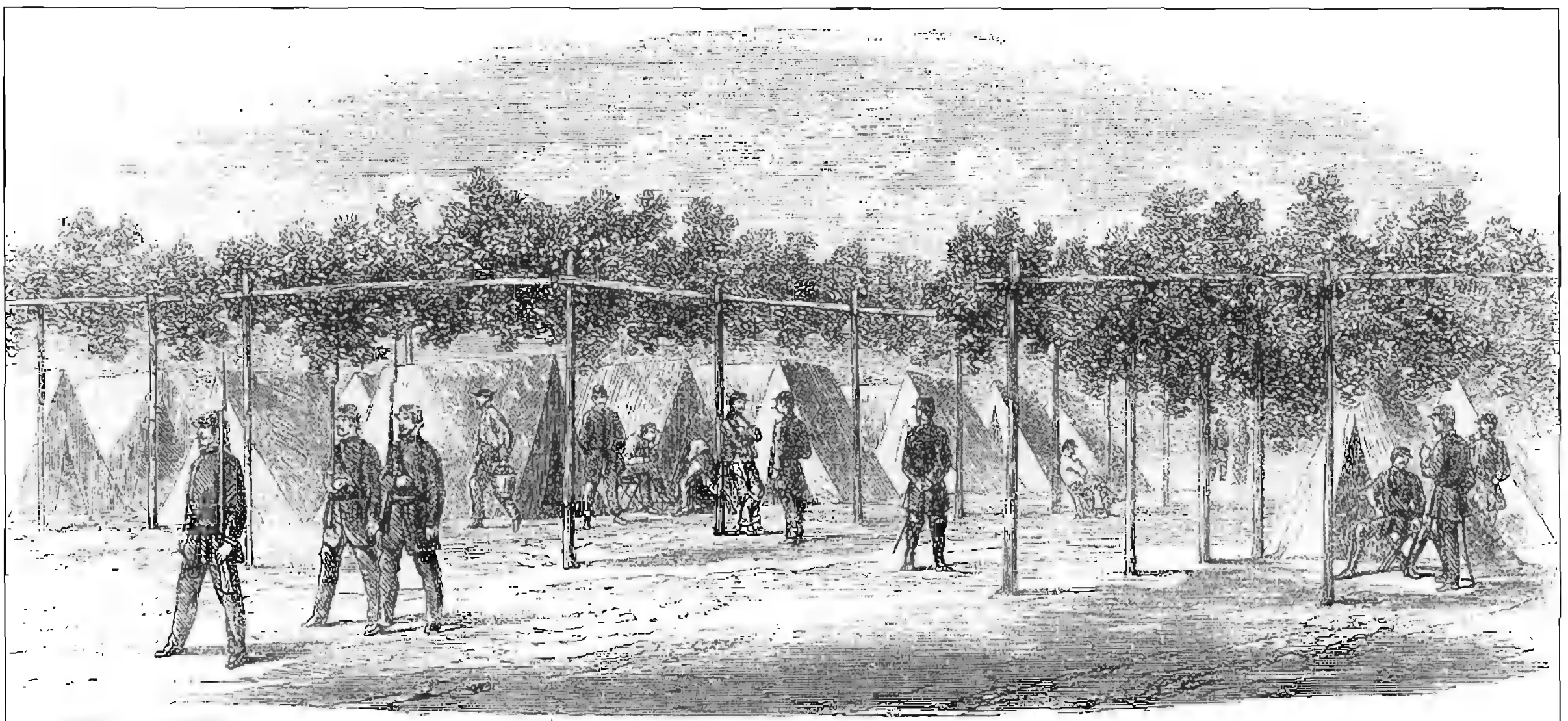
vessels of the Mobile Squadron, which consisted of the *Gaines*, *Morgan*, *Baltic*, *Tennessee* and *Nashville*. In November the Mobile unit was designated Company D; a detachment of 24 men from this unit was transferred to Savannah during the early part of that month, where they eventually formed the nucleus of Co E, plus the ship's guard for the ironclad *Atlanta*.

1863: The loss of the *Atlanta*

Commissioned at Savannah on November 22, 1862, the ironclad CSS *Atlanta* was converted from the Scottish-built blockade-runner *Fingal*. Under Cdr William A. Webb, she limited her activities to patrolling the waters below Savannah for the first six months of her service afloat. However, on June 14, 1863, Webb learned that the Federal monitors *Weehawken* and *Nahant* were inside Wassaw Sound, and determined to attack them. With a spar torpedo attached to the bow of his vessel, and armed with four rifled cannon, the Confederate commander believed that he could blow the enemy ships out of the water if he could only get close enough to them. Unfortunately for the Confederacy, however, Rear Adm Samuel Dupont had received word via deserters that the *Atlanta* was about to make "a dash for the sea," and the Federal vessels were ready for action.

After coaling all night, the *Atlanta* steamed in sight of the monitors, and began her approach. Commanded by Lt James N. Thurston, a graduate of The Citadel in Charleston, SC, the Marine Guard aboard the vessel (which included W.S. Lewis, a black slave owned by Thurston) manned the two port side 6.4in Brooke rifled cannon when the ship was at battle stations. All went well until the *Atlanta* unfortunately grounded about three-quarters of a mile from the enemy ships. At the mercy of the monitors, she was subsequently badly damaged by a "raking shot" fired from one of the 15in guns on the *Weehawken* as that vessel rounded close to the stern of the stricken ironclad. This forced a piece of armor plating back through the woodwork, tearing a hole 3ft wide by the entire length of the protective shield. According to the official report of Cdr Webb,

"Camp Beall" was established at Drewry's Bluff on the James River, Virginia, by the CSMC during May 1862. Based on a drawing by the British correspondent Frank Vizettely, this engraving was published in the *Illustrated London News* on November 15, 1862. (*Illustrated London News*)



this caused "everything moveable in the vicinity to be hurled across the deck with such force as to knock down, wound, and disable the entire gun's crew of the port broadside gun in charge of Lieutenant Thurston (Marine Corps) and also half of the crew at Lieutenant [Alphonse] Barbot's bow gun, some thirty men being injured more or less." After three direct hits, the *Atlanta* struck her colors and her crew, consisting of 21 officers and 124 men including 28 Marines, surrendered.

The captured enlisted Marines were taken to Fort Monroe, where they were paroled by the beginning of July 1863. However, Lt Thurston was sent north to Fort Warren, Massachusetts, where he was received on July 4, 1863. About seven weeks later, he and Lt Joseph Alexander, CSN, managed to escape over the parapet of the fort and hid in icy water for two hours before swimming out to a floating target. Finally managing to reach the opposite side of the channel, they stole a boat and passed themselves off as fishermen until recaptured by a revenue cutter off Boon Island. Returned to Fort Warren, Thurston was finally paroled and exchanged on October 18, 1864.

The defense of Charleston

Although there was an occasional Marine presence at the port of Charleston, SC, during the first 18 months of the war, the first substantial activity appears to have begun during February 1863. In anticipation of a Federal naval offensive, the Confederate Navy Department sent Cos B and C of the Marine Bn from Drewry's Bluff to Charleston, to play a key role in countering the threat posed to the harbor by the Federal monitors. Under cover of darkness, specially trained sailors, plus Marines from Co C, were to board the monitors and sabotage them: steel wedges would be driven into the turret rings to prevent the turrets rotating; sails and wet blankets would be thrown over turrets, pilothouses and hatches to blind and trap the crews; gunpowder would be dropped down the smokestacks, and "sulphurated" cartridges in every ventilator, hatch and porthole.

In the event the boarders never had the chance to execute their dangerous plans. Held in readiness until April 12, 1863, they were disappointed to learn that the Federal fleet had withdrawn after the unsuccessful assault on Fort Sumter six days before, and the Marines were eventually returned to Drewry's Bluff. However, their presence in Charleston during this period was not without incident. On March 24 the *Charleston Mercury* reported that Lt David Bradford had arrested "Private Welsh, a deserter from the Marine Corps" – probably referring to Pte John Walsh, who had been absent without leave from Co A since February 28. According to the *Mercury*, the deserter "attempted to escape, and ran off, when the Lieutenant fired three shots from his navy revolver... two of which took effect, one on the right side and one on the leg." As his wounds were not considered dangerous, Walsh was "afterwards lodged in the [City] Guard House," where he made a full recovery.

Desertion became such a problem among the Marines in Charleston that Lt Henry M. Doak was ordered there to locate those who remained after the battalion had gone back to Virginia. Doak placed an advertisement in the local press on May 2, offering amnesty to any who returned to their command voluntarily.

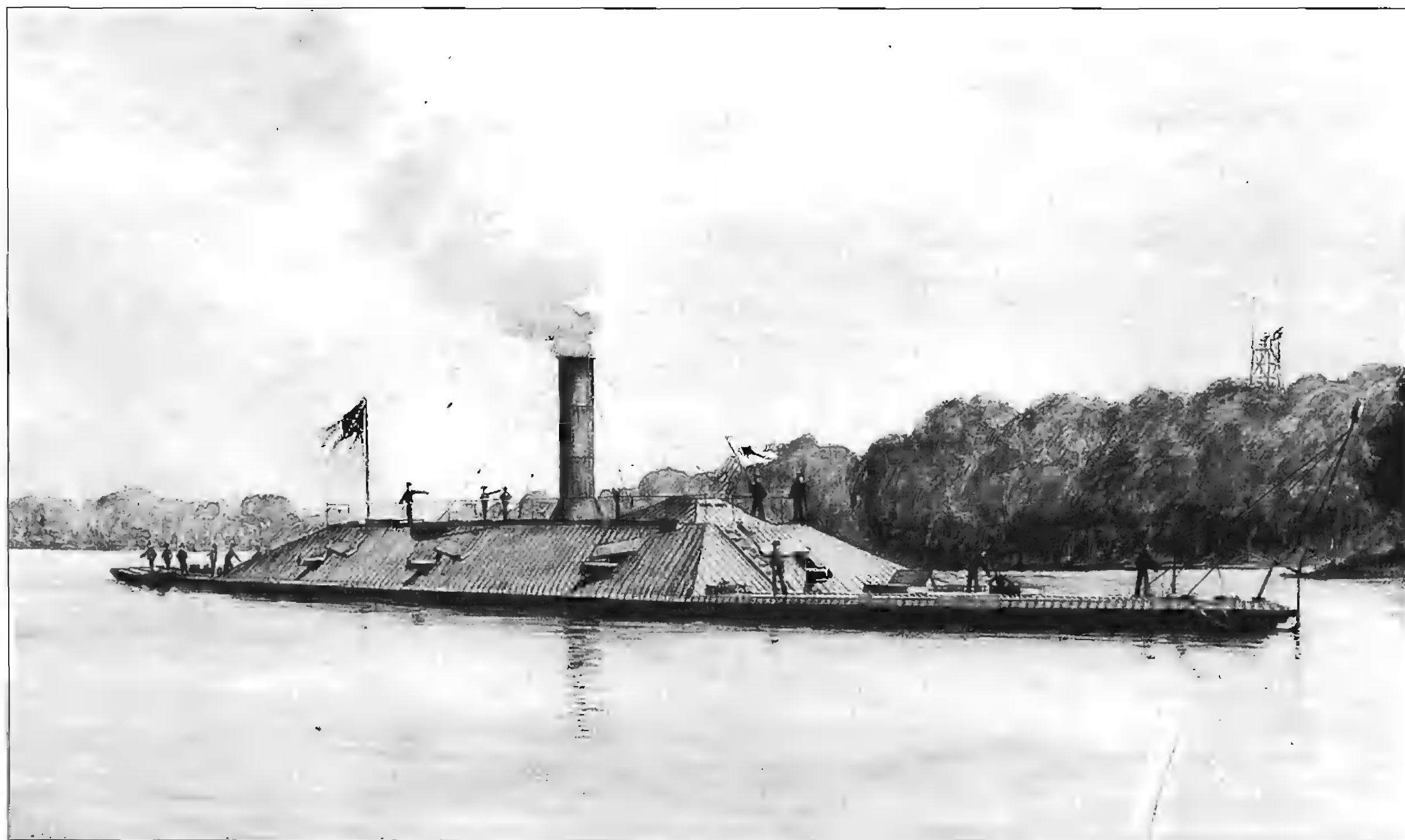
Lieutenant Doak returned to Charleston at the beginning of August with a detachment to form the Marine Guard aboard the new ironclad gunboat CSS *Charleston*, which had been launched on July 13. In later years he recalled participating in three sea engagements and one land action in the Charleston area during this period. The first naval action involved the repulse of a Federal boat assault on Battery Wagner; the *Charleston* lay along the northern end of the channel between the battery and James Island, and fired into a number of small boats carrying three enemy regiments up the channel.

The second sea action was probably the boat expedition under Lt A.F. Warley, CSN, of the ironclad CSS *Chicora*, that captured and destroyed the Federal observation post in the marshes at Schooner Creek, between James and Morris Islands, during the night of August 4. Warley commanded two boats manned by Marines and sailors from the *Chicora* and *Palmetto State*, and was joined by several others carrying 30 men from the St Mathews Rifles, Co F, 25th South Carolina Volunteers, under Capt Martin A. Sellers. The infantry landed as skirmishers; wading knee deep through the marsh, they soon made contact with the enemy, who took to their boats and made their escape. A Federal barge carrying 11 men from the 100th New York was intercepted and captured by Warley's sailors and Marines after a violent struggle. The third engagement was the night attack on Fort Sumter on September 8–9, during which Doak's Marine Guard was transferred to the *Chicora* and fired into the Federal assault boats.

The CS Marine Guard aboard the ironclad CSS *Atlanta* was captured along with the rest of the crew when she was overwhelmed by the firepower of two Federal monitors in Wassaw Sound, off the Georgia coast, on June 17, 1863. Note the raised torpedo spar at the bow of the vessel in this wash drawing, produced in 1901 by R.G. Skerrett. (Naval Historical Center photo NH 57819)

1864: The braggart sergeant-major

The first and only sergeant-major of the CS Marine Corps was appointed at Mobile, Alabama, after being recruited by Capt Meiere on February



1, 1864. Born in Scotland, a man calling himself “Edwin Wallace” claimed that he had served in the British Royal Marines, and that his father had also been a sergeant-major in that corps. (However, no record of such service has been found, despite a careful search of RM records for enlisted men.) Wallace was transferred on February 8 to Drewry’s Bluff, where he served until reduced to the ranks and assigned to Co B on July 25 of that year. He deserted five days later, and swam across the Appomattox River to reach Federal lines carrying “information to the enemy.” According to the Richmond *Daily Dispatch* of September 14, he “recently married a lady in Petersburg. He was famed for recounting his personal exploits, and professed to have been at the grand charge at Balaklava [sic], where ‘cannon to the right of them, cannon to the left of them, rattled and thundered.’ His representations to the Yankees were doubtless the coinage of his own brain, as the statement that his wife and child were killed by a shell in Petersburg is known to have been a deliberate falsehood. The Confederacy loses nothing by the departure of such a man, notwithstanding the hue and cry raised by the Yankees on his arrival amongst them.”

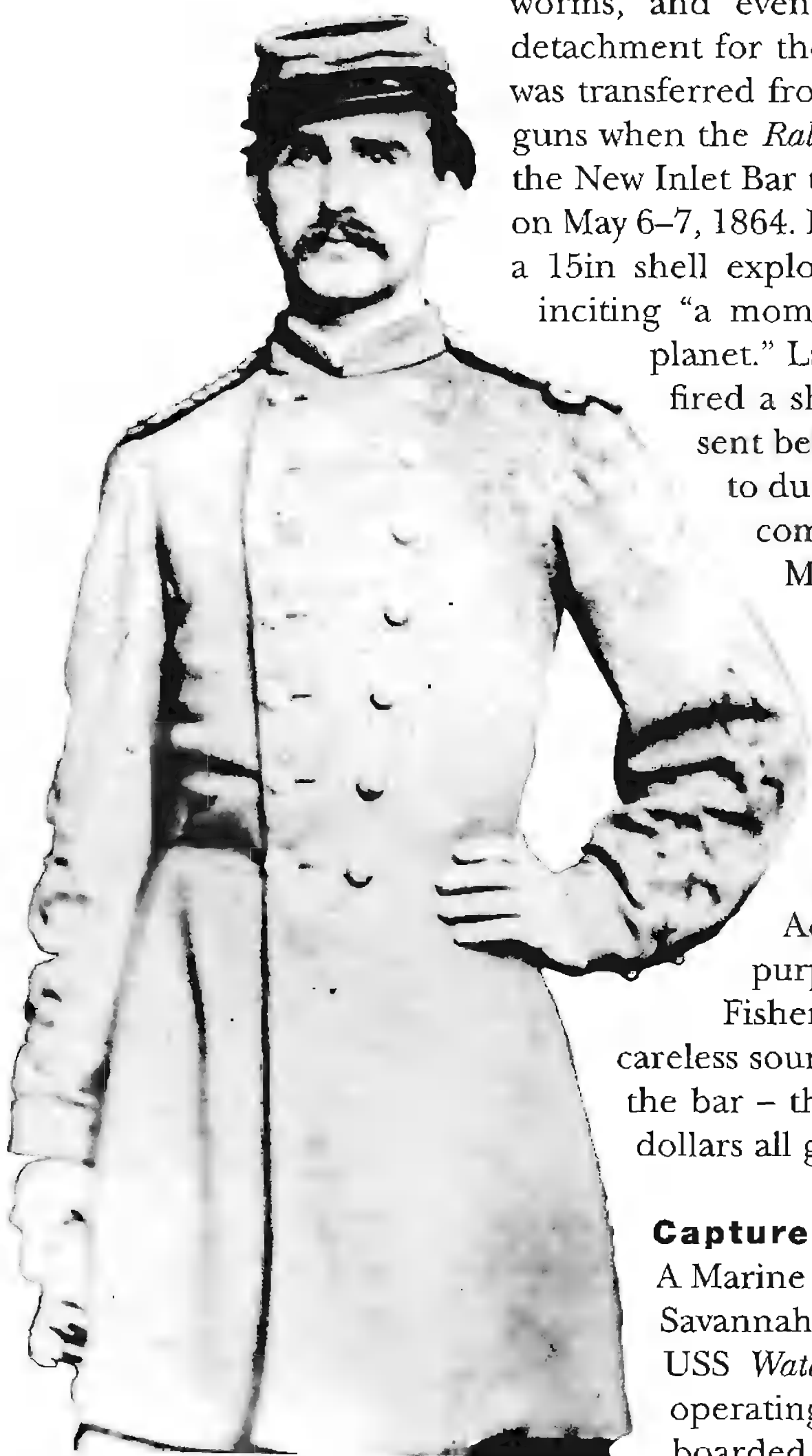
The capture of the *Underwriter*

Like their Federal counterparts, Confederate Marines were occasionally detailed for special service to “cut-out” and capture enemy vessels. In February 1864 men from Co C, under Capt Thomas S. Wilson, took part in the capture of the side-wheel gunboat USS *Underwriter* in the Neuse River near New Berne, North Carolina. About 2.30am on February 2, a force consisting of 250 seamen and 25 Marines aboard ten small boats glided up to the *Underwriter* as she lay at anchor. Discovered too late, the first wave of Confederate seamen, armed with cutlasses and revolvers, boarded the Federal vessel under covering fire from the Marines. Regarding the contribution of the Marines, a Confederate sailor later recalled, “As we came up to the ship they rose and delivered their fire, taking accurate aim, reloading still under the heavy fire from the Yankees.” The Marines then joined the boarders, but as they clambered up the sides and over the rail Pte William Bell was “shot through the heart,” and landed heavily on the eyewitness, crushing him “down over the thwarts.” The remaining Marines “obeyed their orders promptly” and were quickly placed in formation on the hurricane deck, with fixed bayonets. Standing their ground, they shot down any remaining opposition – even when a large shell from a shore battery struck the “upper machinery” of the *Underwriter* and exploded on the deck nearby.

Henry Melville Doak was commissioned second lieutenant in the CSMC to rank from November 12, 1862. After serving at Charleston Harbor and on the coast of North Carolina, he was seriously wounded defending Fort Fisher on January 15, 1864. This portrait has been crudely retouched, but the original single collar bar and single-braid sleeve knots on his all-gray coat are apparent. (Courtesy of the Tennessee State Library & Archives)



Originally misidentified as an enlisted man in this photograph, J.Campbell Murdoch was commissioned a second lieutenant in the CSMC on April 8, 1863; the shoulder knots and "chicken guts" on the sleeves are clearly visible. As his cap is gray with a dark band, it may well be part of the revised uniform regulations issued in January 1864; note that the gray coat has no dark facings at collar or cuffs.
(The Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia)



Preparations were made to get the *Underwriter* underway or to tow her off with launches, but fire spread rapidly through the vessel, foiling all efforts. The wounded and prisoners were passed into the boats, and the expedition returned up river under cover of darkness. The total loss among the Confederates was five killed and 11 wounded, including four Marines. Of the performance of the Marines, the overall commander of the operation, Cdr John Taylor Wood, CSN, reported to Col Beall, "As a body they would be a credit to any organization, and I will be glad to be associated with them on duty any time."

Attack on the blockading fleet

The first Marines assigned to the port of Wilmington, NC, were sent from Drewry's Bluff towards the end of January 1864. Primarily tasked with providing the Ship's Guard for the ironclads *North Carolina* and *Raleigh*, both of which were nearing completion, they were under overall command of Lt J.Campbell Murdoch by the beginning of March. Those Marines placed aboard the *North Carolina* saw no service, as that vessel was apparently not sheathed with copper, fell victim to sea worms, and eventually sank at anchor in September 1864. The detachment for the *Raleigh* were commanded by Lt Henry Doak, who was transferred from Savannah on February 27. They helped man the guns when the *Raleigh* steamed down the Cape Fear River and crossed the New Inlet Bar to engage the Federal blockading fleet off New Inlet on May 6-7, 1864. In his memoirs Doak recorded that during the action a 15in shell exploded on or just above his post between two guns, inciting "a momentary fear that Atlas had carelessly dropped this planet." Later, in the smoke and confusion, Doak accidentally fired a shell into Fort Fisher from one of his guns, and was sent below under arrest; however, he was promptly restored to duty following the intervention of Lt J.Pembroke Jones, commanding the *Raleigh*, who insisted that his officer of Marines had responded to a faulty order.

At dawn the next day the wooden Federal blockaders closed in on the *Raleigh*, but a few shots from her long-range rifled guns soon drove them off. A damaged propeller, possibly caused by enemy shelling, prompted the ironclad to return across the bar but, running aground, she broke her back and promptly ended her naval service. According to Lt Doak: "We had done all we purposed... and prow was turned shoreward - Fort Fisher giving us a hearty salute as we ran by. Owing to careless sounding or a reckless pilot, we ran aground going over the bar - the 'Raleigh' and months of labor, and thousands of dollars all gone for nothing."

Capture of the *Water Witch*

A Marine detachment of unknown size from Co E stationed at Savannah took part in the capture of the side-wheel steamer USS *Water Witch* on May 31. One of the Federal squadron operating in the waters below Savannah, the *Water Witch* was boarded from both sides, and a bloody hand-to-hand combat

lasted for about ten minutes before the crew were overcome. Among those who distinguished themselves was Marine Pte Thomas Veitch, who had earlier been captured aboard the *Atlanta* in June 1863.

Meanwhile, back in Charleston, the need for trained troops in the defence of the city prompted a Navy General Order dated June 29, 1864, for the organization of a "Naval Battalion," including Marines from the Charleston squadron. Under Lt Albert S. Berry, a company assigned to this unit took part in the repulse of a Federal barge attack on Battery Simkins and Fort Johnson on James Island on July 10.

Mobile Bay

The Marines stationed at Mobile took a very active part in the fighting there during August 1864, both on board three of the vessels in the tiny Mobile Squadron, and in the unsuccessful defense of Fort Gaines. Lieutenant David G. Raney Jr commanded the 34-man Marine Guard aboard the ironclad ram *Tennessee*, which surrendered after a desperate engagement with the enemy fleet. The steamer *Selma* was also captured, while the *Gaines* was beached under the guns of Fort Morgan and the crew – including a 17-strong Marine Guard under the Danish-born Sgt Charles Jenner – managed to make their way back to the city. The steamer *Morgan*, with a Marine Guard of 15 men, was the only Confederate vessel to escape after the battle. Lieutenant Raney was eventually imprisoned in a converted warehouse in New Orleans, but was among a number of officers who managed to escape on October 13; he reported back for duty at Mobile 18 days later.

About 40 Marines under Capt Julius Mieire formed part of the garrison in Fort Gaines, on Dauphin Island in Mobile Bay, and were involved in the skirmishing against the Federal force commanded by Gen Gordon Granger on August 5. Once the enemy fleet had forced its way into Mobile Bay and compelled the *Tennessee* to surrender, a document was circulated among the officers defending the fort recommending capitulation. Mieire agreed to sign, while Lts Fendall and Rapier refused. Taken prisoner nonetheless, they were also among the Confederate officers who managed to escape on October 13; the former returned to duty in Mobile on November 6, while the latter two were to follow four days later.

The siege of Savannah

Sherman's march through Georgia during December 1864 brought Federal troops to the outskirts of Savannah, and all available Confederate forces, including Marines, were required to take their place in the defenses. The Marines available to Capt John R. F. Tattnall consisted of about 50 men of Co E, who were assigned to the trenches near King's Bridge on the Little Ogeechee River west of the city. Resisting stubbornly for 12 days, they withdrew with other Confederate troops when the city was abandoned on December 20. Also with this unit was Lt Henry Lea Graves, who had with him his black body servant, Lawrence Graves. Like many slaves during the Civil War, he loaded his master's rifle and occasionally became involved in the fighting. On January 20, 1865, Iverson D. Graves, brother of the Marine officer, wrote home that "L[awrence] was much elated with the idea of having shot at some Yankees before evacuation, and thinks he hit one."

Joined by the Marine Guard from the ironclad *Savannah*, which was burned by the Confederates on December 21, the Marines at Savannah fell in with the general retreat north to Hardeeville, SC, where they took the railroad to Charleston.

Defense of Fort Fisher

The US Army and Navy planned several assaults on Fort Fisher and the port of Wilmington, NC, but made no attempt until December 24, 1864. After two days of fierce fighting with little result, Federal commanders concluded that the fort was too strong and withdrew their forces. The garrison was reinforced by a number of CS Marines during this action. A detachment under Lt Francis M. Roby served two 7in Brooke rifled guns until they both burst, following which they were assigned to other guns, despite the casualties sustained. A company of Marines commanded by Capt Van Benthuyzen also earned praise from Gen W.H.C. Whiting, commanding Fort Fisher, for the "welcome and efficient aid" they provided.

The Federal fleet returned for a second attempt to capture Fort Fisher on January 12, 1865. On this occasion Lt George H. Arledge was ordered to take 50 Marines from Battery Buchanan, at the tip of Federal Point, to take part in the desperate resistance to an enemy landing force consisting of about 11,000 Federal soldiers, sailors and Marines. During the assault on January 15, Lt Henry Doak commanded a battery of three 9in Dahlgren guns until they were dismounted and put out of action. He was then assigned with a squad of Marines to a mortar battery to the rear of the headquarters "bombproof," where he was wounded when a large Federal shell scored a direct hit. Doak later recalled:

"As I started to climb the breastworks to watch the effect of the next shot, a fifteen-inch shell from the fleet darkened the air – obscured me. For a moment I thought I was dead – face smashed in. Feeling my blood-bathed face and finding my prominent promontory [his nose] intact, I rose and took a step forward – coming down on my right knee. I had a severe flesh wound in the calf of my leg. Sand had cut my face and so blinded me that I could scarcely see for several days. Eight of my [guncrew] had been killed or wounded."

Other Confederate Marine officers wounded included Lt David Bradford, by a shell fragment to his left hip; Capt Van Benthuyzen received a head wound, and Lt Thomas St George Pratt was shot in the left foot. Of the 99 enlisted Marines thought to have taken part in the unsuccessful defense of Fort Fisher, 66 were captured and ten were wounded (three mortally).



OPPOSITE Robert M. Ramsey served as a private in Co L, 1st Georgia Regulars until his father acquired a commission for him in the CSMC, dated October 26, 1861. He then served at Pensacola as Acting Quartermaster of Co B, following which he was moved to the Mobile Station, and then on to Camp Beall in Virginia, where he took part in the first battle of Drewry's Bluff. He was eventually court-martialed and discharged for being absent beyond a period of leave, during which time he had taken part in the battle of Malvern Hill. This damaged photo was taken in Richmond in 1861. He appears to be wearing a dark-colored kepi, and his coat has solid dark facings on collar and cuffs. Rank is indicated by collar bars and sleeve knots. (Photo courtesy of his great-grand-nephew Gerald Powell)

1865: The Appomattox campaign

After the collapse of the Richmond–Petersburg line the Marine field battalion at Drewry's Bluff joined in the general retreat towards Appomattox on April 2, 1865. As part of the Naval Bde commanded by Cdre John R. Tucker, they were assigned to the rearguard of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia during the withdrawal. Four days later the Federal army intercepted and cut off the rear of Lee's army, which resulted in the battle of Saylor's Creek. During this action Tucker's brigade was the only Confederate unit that did not break under the first Federal charge. After repulsing the attack the brigade, which numbered only about 350 men, was surrounded by six Federal divisions. Rather than surrender, Tucker counter-attacked and drove into the 37th Massachusetts and 2nd Rhode Island Infantry. According to BrigGen Truman Seymour, commanding the Federal 3rd Div, 6th Corps, "The Confederate Marine Battalion fought with peculiar obstinacy, and our lines, somewhat disordered by crossing the creek, were repulsed in the first onset." A member of Phillip's Georgia Legion, which stood in line of battle just behind Tucker's brigade, later recalled, "Those marines fought like tigers and against odds of at least ten to one." Eventually withdrawing to



Lt John L. Rapier in undress uniform, with shoulder knots removed. Captured at Fort Gaines on Dauphin Island in Mobile Bay in August 1864, Rapier escaped and returned to Mobile in November. He would be one of the last CSMC officers to surrender, on May 5, 1865. (Courtesy Adelaide Trigg)

a wooded thicket, Tucker held off several more attacks, but was ultimately talked into surrendering towards the end of the day. However, many of his men, including Marines, escaped to rejoin the Army of Northern Virginia, with which they remained until Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House three days later.

A number of Confederate Marines fought on until the beginning of May 1865. As the senior officer present, Lt David Raney Jr surrendered himself and 24 Marines of Co D as part of the Mobile Squadron, at Nanna Hubba Bluff on the Tombigbee River, about 35 miles upstream from Mobile, on May 5. Lieutenants J.R.Y.Fendall and John L.Rapier surrendered on the same occasion; and at around the same date 19 enlisted men from the same company were captured as part of LtGen Richard Taylor's command at Citronelle, Alabama. The last Confederate Marines to surrender were 14 men of Co D, who were paroled at Meridian, Mississippi, on May 9, 1865.

UNIFORMS, ARMS & EQUIPMENT

It was hoped by the South that a peaceful separation of the slave states from the Union would be achieved in 1861; hence, the original uniforms chosen by the Confederate States Marine Corps were probably intended to be similar to those adopted by the US Marine Corps in 1859. Some evidence in support of this is to be found in General Order No.2, General Headquarters, Navy Department [of the State of Virginia], Richmond, Virginia, April 25, 1861, which stated: "The uniform of the Officers, Seamen and Marines of the Virginia Navy shall correspond in all respects to that of the United States Navy, with the exception of the button, which shall be that of the Commonwealth of Virginia." The fact that the short-lived Virginia Marine Corps made this choice suggests that the same approach may have been taken for the CS Marines.

Certainly, at the outset, those US Marine officers and enlisted men who joined the CS Marine Corps continued to wear their "old service" uniforms. First Lieutenant Becket K.Howell, commander of the Marine Guard aboard the CSS *Sumter*, was photographed with the other ship's officers before she went to sea on June 18, 1861, wearing his US Marine Corps uniform. The seizure of US naval stores at the Warrington (Pensacola) and Gosport navy yards



OPPOSITE **Henry L.Graves** was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Confederate Marines on October 24, 1862. He served at Drewry's Bluff until February 1863, when he was transferred to Savannah, Ga, where he was appointed to command the Marine Guard aboard the *CSS Savannah*. This photo was taken some time after January 7, 1864, on which date he was promoted first lieutenant – note double collar bars on the all-gray uniform. (Atlanta History Center)

in early 1861 provided the states of Florida and Virginia and, indirectly, the Confederate authorities, with a limited supply of both US Marine and Navy uniforms and equipage. However, this matériel would not have gone far, and orders for uniform clothing were quickly placed abroad and with Southern tailors and dry goods agents.

On May 9, 1861, Secretary of the Navy Mallory wrote to Capt James D.Bulloch, CSN, the Confederate purchasing agent in England, requesting him to purchase “Two thousand pairs of shoes, brogans, 2,000 flannel shirts, 2,000 canton flannel drawers, 2,000 pairs of woollen socks, 1,000 blankets, 1,000 fatigue caps, [and] 1,000 shirts (linen and cotton).” The “description of marine clothing” attached to this letter has not been found.

Meanwhile, more local clothing orders were being supplied. On May 21, “10 cases of black brogans (sixty in each) sizes 6–11” were shipped from Mobile via Montgomery, Alabama, to the Marines under Capt Van Benthuisen at Pensacola. On May 17, Secretary Mallory informed that officer that “Clothing and uniforms are ordered at New Orleans for the Corps at Warrington.” On May 23, 115 Marine recruits leaving New Orleans for Pensacola with Capt George Holmes were issued with “117 grey flannel shirts” and 47 pairs of “cottonade pantaloons.” A further “196 prs. Blue satinett pants” and “60 prs white linen duck pants” were received by Maj Samuel Z.Gonzalez, Marine quartermaster at Pensacola, on July 2, 1861.

On July 10, full fatigue uniforms were issued to Co A under Capt Holmes at Pensacola. These consisted of “90 Uniform Caps, 110 prs. Uniform pantaloons, 110 fatigue jackets [&] 60 flannel shirts.” The Marine Guard aboard *CSS McRae* at New Orleans received “21 prs blue satinett pants, 21 prs. Shoes, 42 caps, 42 prs white linen pants [&] 21 undress jackets” on July 12. By the beginning of September the Marines at Pensacola were also receiving “fatigue woollen overalls.”

Made by G.Samson of New Orleans, the first full dress uniforms seem to have been issued to Confederate Marines on June 8, 1861, when Lt Becket K.Howell, commanding the Marine Guard aboard *CSS Sumter*, received “20 Full dress suit,” “20 Cap & Cover,” and “4 Gross Bell Buttons.” Later that year, on October 12, having been transferred to Savannah, Co A was issued with “satinette” frock coats, and jeans pants. As satinette was produced only as a fine quality blue cloth, the Marines at the Savannah Station were thus wearing blue frock coats. Furthermore, the fact that separate coats and pants were supplied to sergeants and corporals indicates the presence of rank insignia for non-commissioned officers, including chevrons on sleeves and stripes on the outseams of trousers. One hundred “leather stocks” had also been supplied to the same company eight days earlier. The uniform coats issued on this occasion were probably double-breasted, and fastened by seven pairs of buttons.

During the same period the Marine Guard, and probably the seamen, aboard the gunboat *CSS Savannah*, the flagship of Cdre Josiah Tatnall, had received “60 Blue Flannel Shirts” from the Soldiers' Relief Association of Charleston by November 1, 1861. On September 26 Secretary Mallory again wrote to James Bulloch in England, requesting the supply of “Eight hundred overcoats (watch coats).” In the meantime the Corps received 100 overcoats, presumably of American manufacture, on November 2.

Evidence that the Confederate Marine battalion based at "Camp Beall," Drewry's Bluff, had received gray clothing from the Army QM department in Richmond by the fall of 1862 is found in a letter written by Ephraim Henry Harding, chaplain of the 45th Regt, North Carolina State Troops, to his wife Mary on September 2, 1862. Having been asked to officiate at the funeral of 1st Sgt Jacob Scholls, he wrote, "The scene was both novel and impressive. The marines some two or three companies were all dressed in white trousers & grey coats..." In a further letter to Bulloch dated March 9, Mallory confirmed "Marine cloth [at least for frock coats] is gray."

Several descriptions of deserters published in the contemporary newspapers provide further evidence for this change in coat color. An enlisted man who deserted from the Mobile Station in January 1863 was described as wearing "a *grey coat and black pants*." When Cpl John A. McDaniels deserted from CSS *Atlanta* in May 1863, he was wearing a "*grey coat trimmed with black and blue pants*."

Regarding headgear, Marine enlisted men may have worn blue caps until about 1864. When a city watchman searched a soldier after an altercation between the latter and a Marine in Richmond on May 24, 1862, he found "a marine's blue cloth cap in his bosom." Later in the war, on May 17, 1864, 1st Lt Thomas Peyton Gwynn, commanding the Marine Guard on CSS *Richmond*, requisitioned and received "1 Blue Cap" for an enlisted man. Some officers may also have worn blue caps:

The officers of the CSS *Sumter* were photographed before their vessel put to sea on June 18, 1861. Commander Raphael Semmes is seated at center, while 2nd Lt Becket K. Howell stands at far right wearing US Marine Corps uniform. (Naval Historical Center photo NH 42383)





Becket K. Howell commanded the Marine Guard aboard the *CSS Sumter* from April 1861 to April 1862. He was also the only Confederate Marine aboard the *CSS Alabama*, and helped serve one of the guns during the battle with *USS Kearsarge* on June 19, 1864. He appears to be wearing a dark blue coat of US Navy cut, with shoulder straps bearing the Army bar for lieutenant rather than the Navy star. (*Memoirs of Service Afloat*)

in an image taken in Richmond in October 1861, 2nd Lt Robert M. Ramsey seems to be wearing a plain, dark-colored cap without ornamentation (see page 52).

A new pattern of uniform and fatigue wear, plus caps, of "Blue Jean cloth" appears to have been issued on January 25, 1864. Once again, the uniform coats would have been double-breasted, while the fatigue or "sack" coats were probably only fastened by a single row of four "A" buttons. Evidence from clothing receipt rolls issued in that year indicates that Marines received "a uniform cap with a pompon," as well as a fatigue cap; no representation of such a dress cap has survived. The only indication regarding cap ornamentation is a reference to "Eagles and rings" found in a clothing receipt roll dated June 1864. A gray kepi with very dark blue/black band worn by Pte Samuel Z. Curtis, and owned today by a descendant, may have belonged to this period.

Photographs of Lts Raney and Fendall (see pages 41 & 44), taken at Mobile in 1863, indicate that regulations for CSMC officers' uniforms may have existed. Seemingly based on those approved for the US Marine Corps in 1859, but using gray cloth instead of dark blue, the undress uniform coat was secured by a double row of seven buttons, and

Allen P.Ham enlisted in the CSMC at Decatur, Ga, on June 30, 1863, and served in Co E. Despite the very heavy retouching, this image taken shortly afterwards shows a single-breasted frock coat with piping around the collar, matching trousers, and a kepi with straight vizor. He holds an M1854 Lorenz rifled musket, and his accoutrements appear to be of British Army pattern. (Courtesy of his great-grandson Brooks L.Hamm)



in some cases had dark blue facings on the collar and cuffs. Rank insignia consisted of a system of gold collar bars and Austrian-style sleeve knots, as used by the Confederate Army, plus gold shoulder knots on scarlet underlay. According to the Raney and Fendall photos, these shoulder knots did not have embroidered rank devices attached in the USMC fashion. A single-breasted service coat also appears to have been worn, without shoulder knots. Trousers were less regulation, and seem to have been either navy blue, sky-blue, or gray with dark blue seam stripes. Lieutenant Fendall was photographed in 1863 holding a gray cap with a dark band.

Regarding weapons, a number of Marine officers acquired light or horse artillery sabers, while sidearms would have included Colt Army and Navy revolvers of various calibers. Lieutenant R.M.Ramsey was photographed with what appears to be a Le Mat revolver tucked through his sword belt.



William G.B. Hosch enlisted in Co E at Savannah, Ga, on February 3, 1864. He wears a plain gray coat issued as part of the service uniform for Confederate Marines from mid-1862 to the beginning of 1864. (Courtesy Katherine Hosch Jessup)

The first enlisted Marines appear to have been issued with smoothbore muskets via Army ordnance officers. Captain Holmes' Co A received, among other things, "32 muskets" on July 8, 1861; Capt Van Benthuyzen's Co B was issued with Enfield rifles when they arrived at Drewry's Bluff in April 1862. A recruiting notice for Capt Mieire's Co D at the Mobile Station, published in February 1863, promised that recruits would be armed with "Enfield Rifles, with Sword Bayonets;" however, this company was actually issued 150 Model 1854 Lorenz rifled muskets on June 6, 1863. Company E at Savannah also received this weapon.

The Marines at Pensacola were issued 100 each of waist belts and plates, cartridge boxes and plates, cartridge box belts and plates, and cap pouches on April 27, 1861. On August 3, Capt Thom was supplied by Maj Gonzalez, the quartermaster at Pensacola, with "209 cartridge boxes, 110 bayonet scabbards, 110 cap pouches, 110 canteens and straps, 110 waist belts & plates, [and] 110 cross belts & plates." It is not known if

any of the plates with this issue bore a device or lettering.

On September 26, 1861, Secretary Mallory instructed Capt Bulloch in London to purchase for the Marine Corps "1,000 waist belts, black leather (such as used in British service), with cartridge box, and bayonet scabbard, attached by means of slides; 1,000 knapsacks, such as used in British service, with straps to connect with the waist belt; 20 bugles, with extra mouth pieces; and 20 swords for non-commissioned officers, with shoulder belts." Evidence that some of this equipment was eventually issued to Confederate Marines is found in the photograph of Pte Allen P. Ham, who wears a British Army-style waist belt secured by a "snake" clasp, which supported a "ball bag" designed to carry 20 rounds of ammunition.

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THE PLATES

A: US MARINES AT FIRST MANASSAS (BULL RUN), JULY 21, 1861

Major John G. Reynolds rallies his Marine battalion at the crossroads near Henry Hill during the latter stages of the battle. Despite the heat the Marines wore full uniforms and carried their Army-issue canteens, although they had dropped off their gray blanket rolls and haversacks at the Sudley Road Church. Major Reynolds (right) wears the officer's fatigue cap with black ribbed silk braid, and double-breasted undress coat with gold shoulder knots. His weapons are a .36 caliber Navy Colt revolver and a brass-hilted M1850 Marine officer's sword; the black leather sword belt is fastened by an M1851 eagle-wreath plate. The enlisted men wear seven-button undress coats with thin scarlet cord inserted into the lower collar seam. They are armed with .69 caliber M1842 smoothbore muskets with black leather slings. Their accoutrements are whitened buff leather cross belts and waist belt, supporting a black leather cartridge box and cap pouch. They all wear warm weather white linen trousers. See Plate H for further details.

B: US MARINES ON BLOCKADE DUTY

A white linen summer undress uniform (B1) was prescribed for officers on shipboard in warm weather. Patterned after the dark blue undress uniform, this consisted of a double-breasted frock coat with eight buttons in each row, with rank indicated by gold shoulder knots. Headgear consisted of a flat-crowned straw hat with a black band. A crimson waist sash was always worn with this uniform when on duty.

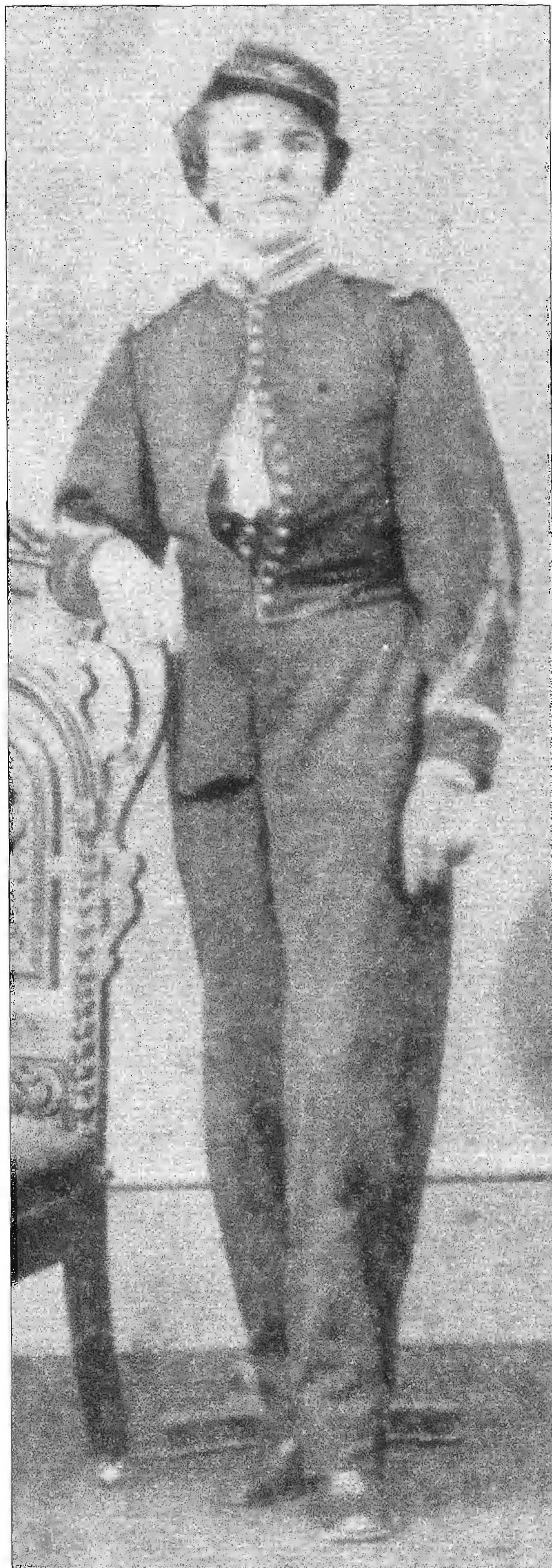
Officers were also permitted to wear a single-breasted fatigue jacket fastened by 16 small Marine buttons (B2). The cuff trim varied in design, but was officially "point up, six inches deep." This officer wears the fatigue cap with black ribbed silk braid decoration, and sky-blue kersey trousers with $\frac{3}{16}$ in scarlet cord let into the outside seams.

The sergeant (B3) wears the 1859 pattern dark indigo blue flannel fatigue "sack" prescribed for enlisted men on shipboard. This pullover garment has a half-length chest opening fastened with four small buttons. Rank is indicated by three yellow worsted chevrons edged with scarlet.

The Marine private (B4) wears warm weather undress: the white linen trousers and the dark blue single-breasted, seven-button coat, piped scarlet at the lower collar seam, are as Plate A, but his fatigue cap has a white linen cover. He holds an M1861 Springfield rifle musket; his single cross belt supports his cartridge pouch while the waist belt carries both his cap pouch and the black leather bayonet scabbard in a whitened leather frog.

C: US MARINES IN THE BOAT ATTACK ON FORT SUMTER, SEPTEMBER 8, 1863

The part played by the Marines in the mishandled and unsuccessful landing assault against the fort in Charleston Harbor, SC, is described in the body text. The plate gives an impression of the moment when the boatload of volunteers under US Marine Lt Robert L. Meade got ashore. Confederate hand grenades and fiery turpentine balls, designed to illuminate the target, rain down from the parapet above as the Marines and sailors clamber up a slope of debris. The Marines wear winter undress uniforms; in



OPPOSITE Lt George Croghan Reid, USMC, wears a fatigue jacket styled after that prescribed for officers in 1859, although his garment appears to have even more than the regulation 16 small Marine buttons, and the "point up" gold lace sleeve trim is much longer than the regulation 6 inches. Compare with Plate B2. (National Archives photo 127-N-517426)

RIGHT Major & Paymaster William W. Russell, USMC, took part in the capture of John Brown in October 1859. He wears the full dress uniform prescribed for field officers, with four gold loops on each cuff flap. Note at right his chapeau complete with red feather plume – see Plate D1. (Courtesy David M. Sullivan)

preparation for the attack their belts were ordered to be stained black to make them less conspicuous, and they have removed the slings from their rifle muskets.

D: US MARINE FULL DRESS, WASHINGTON NAVY YARD

The field officer (D1) wears the full dress prescribed for a lieutenant-colonel of the Marines. His double-breasted frock coat has eight buttons in each row. Rank is indicated by a silver embroidered leaf on his epaulette straps, two loops of half-inch gold lace on either side of his standing collar, and four loops on each cuff flap. Both collar and cuff flaps are edged with scarlet trim. His dark blue trousers with scarlet welt are those prescribed for staff officers and officers "not serving in line with troops." He wears the dark blue chapeau with a gold and scarlet flat tassel at each end and a plume of red cock or vulture feathers. His white glazed leather sword belt is fastened over his crimson sash by an 1861 pattern eagle plate; suspended from it is an M1850 Marine officer's sword with gold lace knot.

The musician (D2) wears a scarlet coat (dyed with cochineal) with white edging trim on the collar and cuff flaps; his epaulette crescents and scale straps are yellow metal, with yellow worsted fringing. His uniform cap is of black felt with top, vizor, and bands of glazed black leather. The plate is the US shield within a half-wreath, with white metal "M" against a red background set within the curl of the bugle horn; the red pompon rises from a brass mount. His sky-blue trousers have $\frac{3}{16}$ in scarlet seam stripes. His waist belt has a plain rectangular plate, and his white webbing drum sling has a brass drumstick carriage. His drum is decorated with the US eagle and shield, stars and rays, and a red ribbon bearing the inscription "U.S. MARINES".

The sergeant-major (D3) wears the dark blue, double-breasted frock coat with seven buttons in each row. Rank is indicated by three gold lace loops on each cuff flap, plus three yellow silk lace chevrons and arcs, on scarlet backing. He also wears a red worsted waist sash underneath his white belt, which supports a brass-hilted M1850 Marine NCO sword. Both the sergeant-major and the musician wear black leather neck stocks.

E: CS MARINES, PENSACOLA, 1861

The first recruits for the Confederate States Marine Corps based at Pensacola, Florida, were issued clothing seized from US naval stores at the Warrington and Gosport navy yards. (E1) is a private of Company A in May 1861; he wears a dark



blue US Navy cap minus its black ribbon, a gray flannel overshirt, white "cottonade pantaloons," and a large bow tie of civilian origin. His ex-US Marine Corps accoutrements consist of a whitened leather waist belt with plain plate, black cap pouch and frogged bayonet scabbard, and a white leather shoulder belt for the black cartridge box. His canteen and white linen haversack are ex-US Army items.

The private of Co C wears the fatigue uniform issued in July 1861 (E2). This consists of a short dark blue woolen 9-button fatigue or undress jacket with plain collar and cuffs, blue "satinet" pants, and dark blue uniform cap. His black leather waist belt and cartridge box belt are locally made, the former with a brass frame buckle. Both Marines have "old Model" 1816 flintlock smoothbore muskets converted to percussion, with leather slings attached.

(E3) is an officer of Co A, wearing a dark blue double-breasted satinet coat. Based on clothing worn by 2nd Lt F.H. Cameron (see page 31), it was adapted for CS Marine service from his US Coast Survey uniform, with the addition of Austrian sleeve knots. He carries an M1850 foot officer's sword suspended from a black leather sword belt.



Pte William A. Krise, USMC, wears full dress uniform, which includes epaulettes consisting of a scale strap and crescent of yellow metal with yellow worsted fringing, the latter removable to ease the cleaning of the metal parts. In this image the two yellow loops on the collar and the cuff flaps are apparent. (USAMHI)

F: CS MARINES AT DREWRY'S BLUFF, MAY 15, 1862

As described in the body text, a flotilla of Federal ironclads probing up the James River towards Richmond, Va, came under heavy sniping fire from a two-company battalion of Confederate Marines commanded by Capt John D. Simms, placed in rifle pits along the bank at Drewry's Bluff. The captain (F1) wears a blue-gray undress frock coat with dark blue facings on collar and cuffs. Rank is indicated by three collar bars, shoulder knots, and double-braid sleeve knots. His dark blue kepi is trimmed on top with a gold braid quatrefoil, and his gray trousers have Navy blue seam stripes. He holds a light artillery saber, and his black leather sword belt is fastened by a British Army-style snake clasp.

The sergeant (F2) is dressed in a gray Army-style frock coat fastened by a single row of nine buttons, with three

inverted Navy blue chevrons sewn straight on to the upper sleeves. He is armed with a three-band Enfield rifle musket with triangular bayonet, and his accoutrements consist of standard British Army snake-clasp belt of black leather, 1861 pattern "ball bag" and bayonet scabbard. He also carries a gray-covered "bull's-eye" tin canteen and a black oilskin haversack.

Other enlisted men (F3) wear a mixture of dark blue satin and gray frock coats, and carry the same British weapon and accoutrements as their NCO.

G: CS MARINES IN THE CAPTURE OF THE USS UNDERWRITER, FEBRUARY 2, 1864

As described in the body text, 25 Marines provided covering fire and part of the naval boat party which captured this side-wheel gunboat anchored in the Neuse River near New



In this second portrait Lt John L. Rapier, CSMC, appears to be wearing the gray single-breasted service coat adopted by the Corps in 1863, but without shoulder knots. (Courtesy Adelaide Trigg)

Berne, North Carolina. By the time of this action they probably wore the new uniform issued to the Corps in January 1864, which included a single-breasted, seven-button frock coat of "Blue-Jean cloth" with Navy blue trim around the upper collar edge, and gray trousers. The corporal (right) has two Navy blue chevrons on each upper arm and half-inch Navy blue trouser seam stripes. The gray kepis have a Navy blue branch-of-service band. They are armed with M1854 Austrian Lorenz rifle muskets, minus slings, and have British-made black leather accoutrements.

H: MARINE INSIGNIA & EQUIPMENT

- H1:** US Marine Corps officer's full dress sword belt
- H2:** Modified M1850 foot officer's sword, adopted by US Marine Corps on June 3, 1861, as its NCO sword
- H3:** US Marine Corps flag – national pattern
- H4:** US Marine Corps officer's shoulder knot with lieutenant-colonel's metal insignia



The undress frock coat, trousers and waist sash worn by Lt Henry L. Graves, CSMC, in 1864 survive today in the collection of the Atlanta History Center. The coat is bluish-gray with black edging on the cuffs, and has two rows of pre-war USMC buttons made by A.N. Horstmann & Allen, carrying an eagle and fouled anchor surmounted by a semi-circle of 13 stars. The shoulder knots are gold on a scarlet ground. The trousers are sky-blue with a narrow black welt down the outer seams, while the sash is crimson. (Atlanta History Center)

- H5:** US Marine Corps eagle-and-anchor button
- H6:** CS Marine Corps "M" button
- H7:** US Marine Corps officers' embroidered fatigue cap ornament
- H8:** US Marine Corps enlisted men's metal fatigue cap ornament
- H9:** CS Marine Corps officers' sleeve braid: (a) lieutenant, (b) captain, (c) field officer
- H10:** CS Marine Corps officer's collar braid: (a) second lieutenant, (b) first lieutenant, (c) captain. Field officers wore one, two or three stars.
- H11:** US Marine Corps enlisted men's full dress shako, with (left) detail of plate

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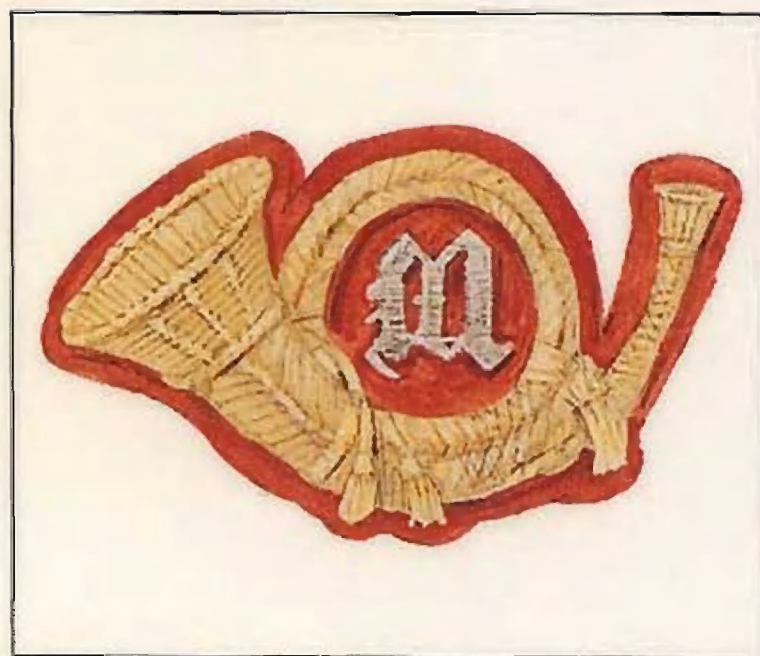
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